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CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Lebanese Deputies Continue Session in Al-Ta'if 1
Prince al-Faysal Outlines Accord *[RFL]* 1
Statement of Tripartite Committee *[VOL]* 1
Summit To Determine Syrian Presence *[VOL]* 2
King Fahd Lauds Parliamentarians *[SPA]* 3
GCC Commends King Fahd's Role *[SPA]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends Message to President Bush *[MENA]* 4
PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Visits CSSR 18-19 Oct *[cross-reference]* 4
Salah Khalaf on Israeli Position, Ties With Syria *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I 19 Oct]* .. 4

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Message From Angolan President *[MENA]* 6
Mubarak Leaves for Al-Faw Celebration in Iraq *[MENA]* 6
Fatah Envoy on Mubarak-'Arafat Talks *[MENA]* 6
PLO's Al-Hasan Meets With 'Abd-al-Majid *[MENA]* 6
UK Labor Party Foreign Secretary Ends Visit *[MENA]* 6
Editorial on Israel's Accepting 'Land for Peace' *[AL-AKHBAR 22 Oct]* 6
Editorial Envisions Shamir-U.S. 'Confrontation' *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 22 Oct]* 7
Papers Comment on Shamir's 'Delaying Tactics' *[MENA]* 7
Commentary Criticizes Shamir's Position *[Cairo International]* 8

Morocco

Weizsaecker Holds News Conference in Rabat *[MAP]* 9
Sends Message to King, Departs *[MAP]* 9
Senegal's Diouf Arrives for Meeting on EEC *[Rabat Radio]* 9
Received by King Hassan II *[MAP]* 9

Sudan

Dialogue Conference To Submit Recommendations *[Omdurman Radio]* 10
More on Conference Reports *[Omdurman Radio]* 10
SPLA 'Rejection' Noted *[SUNA]* 11
'Federal System' Recommended *[SUNA]* 11
Al-Bashir News Conference on 'Southern Question' *[SUNA]* 11
Comments on Contacts With Egypt *[SUNA]* 11
Says SPLA Attacked Eastern Town *[SUNA]* 11
Battle Victory Reported *[Radio SPLA]* 12
Rebels Repulsed From Kurmuk *[SUNA]* 12
Al-Bashir Comments on Trade Protocol With Egypt *[MENA]* 12
Eastern Region Governor Dismissed; New One Named *[Omdurman Radio]* 13
Three Members of Previous Government Released *[SUNA]* 13
Kassiano Visits Juba To Assess Security *[SUNA]* 14
Denies Arms Shipped to Equatoria *[Omdurman Radio]* 14
Rules Out Southern Secession *[Omdurman Radio]* 14
Former Vice President: SPLA Backs Separatism *[SUNA]* 14

Al-Bashir: Teams To Tour 'Sisterly' Countries *[SUNA]* 14
Court Decides To Retry Idris al-Banna *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Oct]* 14
Unity Province Headquarters Transferred *[Omdurman Radio]* 15

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

General on F-18 Purchase, Mirage Rejection *[AL-ANBA' 22 Oct]* 16
Defense Officials Receive UK Air Force Chief *[KUNA]* 16
Defense Minister Leaves for Baghdad Festivities *[KUNA]* 16

Qatar

UK's Thatcher Arrives in Doha on 'Short Visit' *[WAKH]* 16
Holds Talks With Prime Minister *[WAKH]* 16
Amir Receives Message From Djibouti President *[WAKH]* 17

Yemen Arab Republic

Al-Asbahi Returns From Qatar With Message *[Sanaa Radio]* 17
PDRY Agriculture Minister Muqbil Arrives 23 Oct *[Sanaa Radio]* 17
Meets With Prime Minister *[Sanaa Radio]* 17

IRAQ

Saddam Marks Al-Faw's Reconstruction in Speech *[Baghdad Radio]* 18
Arab Officials Attending Al-Faw Celebrations 19
Djibouti's Gouled Arrives *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad 24 Oct *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
Kuwaiti Delegation Arrives *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
Omani Representative Arrives *[Baghdad Radio]* 20
Qatari Minister Arrives *[Baghdad Radio]* 20
Moroccan Prince Arrives *[INA]* 20
Algerian Delegation Arrives *[INA]* 20
Mauritanian President Arrives *[INA]* 20
Sudanese President Arrives *[INA]* 20
Bahraini Minister Arrives *[INA]* 20
Saudi Defense Minister Arrives *[Baghdad Radio]* 20
Tunisia's Karoui Arrives *[INA]* 20
PDRY Official Arrives *[INA]* 21
Saddam Visits Arab Leaders *[INA]* 21
Saddam Receives Saudi Minister *[INA]* 21
Senegalese Chief of Staff Departs After Visit *[INA]* 21

ISRAEL

Baker Plan To Be Accepted After 'Modifications' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 22
Arens Comments on Baker Plan, U.S. Contacts *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Talks With U.S. Entering 'Sensitive Stage' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 22
Abu-Rahmah Calls For 'Serious U.S. Involvement' *[AL-NAHAR 23 Oct]* 23
U.S. Urged To Concede Baker's Plan 'Failure' *[AL-SHA'B 22 Oct]* 24
Washington's Options in Peace Process Reviewed *[AL-QUDS 22 Oct]* 24
Rabin Discusses Peace Process, Syrian Sukhois *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Pilot Tells ICRC He Defected on 'Own Volition' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
Government Defeats Six No-Confidence Motions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Peres Meets Rabin; Slated To Leave Hospital *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Milo Named Acting Labor, Social Affairs Minister *[AL HAMISHMAR 24 Oct]* 25
Statistics Indicate 'Positive' Economic Trend *[THE JERUSALEM POST 23 Oct]* 25
Golan Druze Leave for Studies, Visits to Syria *[AL HAMISHMAR 25 Oct]* 26
Human Rights Report Called 'Biased, Unbalanced' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 25 Oct]* 26
Statistics on Palestinian Fatalities Reported *[HA'OLAM HAZE 25 Oct]* 27
'Sharp Rise' Noted in Deaths of Masked Men *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27

Violence, Curfews Reported in Territories 27
12 Hurt in 17 Oct Incidents *[THE JERUSALEM POST 18 Oct]* 27
Curfew Lifted at Al-Shati' *[Jerusalem TV]* 27
18 Oct Incidents Updated *[HADASHOT 19 Oct]* 28
Boy Wounded; School Closed *[Jerusalem TV]* 28
Arab Found Dead in Nabulus *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Riot in Detention Facility *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Suspected Collaborators Beaten *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
'Collaboration' Suspects Slain *[Jerusalem TV]* 28
Gazan Youth Dies of Wounds *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Soldier, Policeman Injured *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Update on 20-21 Oct Incidents 29
IDF Probes Youth's Death *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Villagers Clash With IDF *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Gaza Man Beaten by Soldiers *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30
Update on Oct 22 Incidents 30
Strike Called in West Bank *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Youth Killed Near Tulkarm *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
SLA Positions Attacked by 'Terrorist' Squad *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30

JORDAN

King Interviewed on Peace Process, Elections *[AL-DUSTUR 21 Oct]* 31
Crown Prince Hasan Receives Pakistani General *[Amman Radio]* 32
Information Minister Welcomes Al-Ta'if Accord *[Amman Radio]* 32
Period for Contesting Nominations Ends 23 Oct *[AL-DUSTUR 24 Oct]* 32

LEBANON

'Awn Holds News Conference on Al-Ta'if Talks *[RFL]* 33
Reportage on Reaction to Al-Ta'if Agreement 39
'Hardline' Deputies Set Conditions *[VOL]* 39
'Awn Announces 'Acceptance' *[VOL]* 39
Demonstrators Support 'Awn *[RFL]* 39
'Awn Addresses Demonstrators *[RFL]* 39
'Thousands' Support 'Awn *[AFP]* 40
Christian Leaders Support Accord *[KUNA]* 40
Islamic Jihad: Accord 'Treachery' *[AFP]* 40
Hizballah Condemns 'Conspiracy' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 41
IUM's Sha'ban Rejects Accord *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 41
Resistance Front Attacks Lahd Position *[Voice of National Resistance]* 41
'Awn Forces Reportedly Violate Cease-Fire *[VOM]* 41
Shelling of Mountain Reported *[VOM]* 41
Further on Violation *[VOM]* 41
Mountain Road Reportedly Under 'Sniper Fire' *[Voice of National Resistance]* 42
Amal, Hizballah Gunmen Clash in Beirut *[VOL]* 42

SYRIA

Ministers Review Developments in Lebanon *[SANA]* 43
Al-Ahmar Calls Meetings 'Step' Toward Accord *[SANA]* 43
Media Respond to Developments at Al-Ta'if 43
Paper Cited on Final Session *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Commentary Hails Accord *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Bulgarian Communist Party Official Visits 44
Palin Arrives With Delegation *[SANA]* 44
Confers With Interior Minister *[SANA]* 44
Algerian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 44

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Greets Hungarian Party Chief *[Kabul International]* 45
Council of Ministers Discusses Food Shortages *[Kabul Radio]* 45
Jinnah Group Joins in National Reconciliation *[Kabul International]* 46
Kabul Reports Mujahidin Attacks, Casualties *[Kabul International]* 46
Rebels Capture 1,500 Soldiers; Convoy Blocked *[AFP]* 46

Bangladesh

Ershad Cancels Singapore Visit To Return Home *[Dhaka Radio]* 47
Security Measures Revised at Zia Airport *[Dhaka International]* 47

India

Reportage, Comment on Upcoming General Elections 47
Rama Rao Not To Run for Lok Sabha *[Delhi Radio]* 47
291 Parties Register *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Gandhi To Contest 1 Constituency *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Communists To Back Centrists *[AFP]* 48
Commentary Notes 'World' Interest *[Delhi International]* 48
Army 'On Alert' in Bihar After Communal Violence *[AFP]* 49
Army 'Called Out' in Bhagalpur *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Air Force Trainer Jet Crashes Into Arabian Sea *[AFP]* 50
Rao, Delegation Return From Commonwealth Meeting *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Pakistani Sind Leader's Detention Assailed *[PATRIOT 12 Oct]* 50

Iran

Khamene'i Receives Lebanon's Fadlallah *[Tehran Radio]* 51
ABRAR Urges Respect for Majority in Lebanon *[IRNA]* 51
Deterioration of Ties With Turkey Viewed *[TEHRAN TIMES 17 Oct]* 51
'Anti-Islamic' Position Criticized *[KEYHAN 12 Oct]* 51
Paper Condemns French Breach of Promises *[IRNA]* 52
Loan Dispute Talks To Resume *[IRNA]* 52
Fishing Agreement Signed With Soviet Union *[IRNA]* 52
Energy Minister Meets Official *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Establishment of Interreligion Center Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Universities Reportedly To Teach Sunni Theology *[Tehran Radio]* 53
PTT Minister Discusses Satellite, PTT Plans *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Commerce Ministry Eases Import Requirements *[TEHRAN TIMES 17 Oct]* 54
Editorial Hails Government's Anti-Inflation Moves *[TEHRAN TIMES 15 Oct]* 54
Narcotics Dealers Arrested; Drugs Seized *[Tehran Radio]* 55
2 Drug-Smuggling Rings Smashed in Khorasan *[Tehran Radio]* 55

Pakistan

No-Confidence Motion Against Bhutto Submitted *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Assembly To Debate Motion 26 Oct *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
MQM Breaks With People's Party *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Bihari Issue Reason for Split *[AFP]* 56
MQM, IJI Announce 'Agreement' *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Bhutto Assails No-Confidence Motion *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Bhutto Condemns 'Illegal' Tactics *[Islamabad International]* 57
Member Supports Prime Minister *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Opposition Leader Comments *[AFP]* 57
More on Reaction to Motion *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Meeting Discusses Situation in Indian Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Punjab Chief Calls Indian Dam 'Threat to Economy' *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Punjab Chief's Remarks Criticized *[Islamabad Radio]* 59
Bhutto Meets Afghan Interim Government Cabinet *[Islamabad Radio]* 59

Inter-Arab Affairs

Lebanese Deputies Continue Session in Al-Ta'if

Prince al-Faysal Outlines Accord

NC2410195589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] In an Arab tripartite ministerial statement, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal outlined the executive steps of the [national reconciliation] agreement and tasked Lakhdar Ibrahimi with their implementation. Al-Faysal said that the only real solution to the Lebanese crisis is one that maintains Lebanese independence and sovereignty. He emphasized that a comprehensive agreement and full understanding have been reached with Syria in which Syrian forces will end their security task in Lebanon within a period of no more than 2 years. He said that an Arab summit will sponsor a Lebanese-Syrian agreement on the length of the Syrian Army's presence in Lebanon and that this Arab sponsorship will take place following the redeployment of the Syrians forces to al-Biqa' within a period of no more than 2 years.

Al-Faysal called on the international parties to assume their responsibility in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425. He asked the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies to meet by 7 November at the latest to elect a Chamber speaker, endorse the accord document, and elect a president of the republic.

Statement of Tripartite Committee

NC2410201389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1640 GMT 24 Oct 89

["Text" of the Arab tripartite committee's statement issued at the final meeting of the Lebanese deputies on 24 October in Jeddah—read by anouncer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The supreme Arab tripartite committee has followed with great interest the meetings held by the Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia between 30 September and 22 October 1989. The Lebanese deputies held consultations in al-Ta'if in answer to their national duties and in reply to an invitation from the tripartite committee.

The tripartite committee is pleased to record its deep appreciation of the Lebanese deputies' great historical achievement. The deputies' work has established their unity and their eagerness to rebuild their country on the basis of national reconciliation.

The committee applauds the great efforts exerted by the deputies in discussing the national accord document, the sense of historic responsibility they have exhibited, as well as their devotion to the supreme interests of their country.

The committee is also pleased to congratulate the brotherly Lebanese people who have suffered and sacrificed for so long. The committee prays to God that this accomplishment will help establish security and stability all over Lebanon and spread peace, coexistence, accord, and harmony among its people.

The agreement reached by the Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if emphasizes the fact that the only possible solution to the Lebanese crisis must proceed from the lawful Lebanese institutions [al- shar'iyah al-lubnaniyah] and that the issue of peace and the revitalization of constitutional institutions, so neccessary for the preservation of Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence, is the only way to achive that solution. The agreement is a crucial first step that will be followed by others. The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies will have to ratify the national accord document, elect a president of the republic, and form a government of national reconciliation committed to the document and that will promptly initiate constitutional procedures to implement that document.

The supreme Arab tripartite committee will not spare any efforts in laying the groundwork and in assisting in the implementation of these steps.

Introducing reforms to the Lebanese political system will lead to genuine sharing of the decisionmaking and to the formation of a viable state apparatus. These reforms have political and administrative sides, which concern the powers of the president, the prime minister, and the cabinet; the broadening of the membership of the Chamber of Deputies; the abolition of sectarian politics, education, and information; and other economic and social aspects. These reforms aspire to satisfy the needs of the Lebanese for coexistence in a free country; for equality of opportunity among the citizens; for an atmosphere of prosperity, peace, and welfare; and for justice, peace, and reconciliation. The reforms aspire to establish solidarity among the Lebanese so that the latter can build a future of unity, independence, and cultural achievement and to resume their role in the Arab and international communities.

The establishment of Syrian-Lebanese relations on the basis of sovereignty and independence will emphasize and consolidate the fraternal relations between the two countries within the framework of common interests and mutual respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and the right for each to exercise its national will on all its territories.

The Arab Republic of Syria has asserted its readiness to help the State of Lebanon to impose its authority over all Lebanese territory. The Casablanca summit, as well, has emphasized the Arab countries' support for the Lebanese Government in every measure it adopts to impose its authority over all its territory through its own forces.

Regarding the security and defense tasks undertaken by the Syrian forces in Lebanon, the Arab higher tripartite committee has reached complete agreement and full

understanding with sister Syria, in which the Syrian troops present in Lebanon will end their security mission within a period of not more than 2 years according to the national reconciliation document. During this period, the legitimate Lebanese forces will take over full responsibility for security from the Syrian troops which will, meanwhile, redeploy to the locations stipulated by the national reconciliation document. The duration of the Syrian forces presence in those locations will be determined according to an agreement to be reached between the Syrian and the Lebanese Governments. An Arab summit meeting will be responsible for concluding and implementing this agreement.

In accordance with the above principles, the Arab higher tripartite committee is pleased to reiterate the Casablanca Arab summit resolution which expressed determination to help Lebanon out of its ordeal, end its suffering, restore normalcy, impose the state's sovereighty and authority over all Lebanese national territory, and begin reconstruction, so that Lebanon can resume its natural role as a member of the Arab family. In this context, the committee particularly wishes to emphasize the following:

1. A true solution to the Lebanese problem is one that is made by preserving Lebanon's independence and its sovereignty over its territory. The Arab framework is the natural framework for resolving the Lebanese crisis.

2. The collective Arab responsibility for the situation in Lebanon, and all the Arab countries' commitment to realizing the goals approved by the Casablanca Arab summit meeting, will continue. This commitment emanates from the genuine sense of national responsibility and from the charter of the Arab League.

3. The Casablanca summit has expressed its eagerness to follow up the implementation of its resolution on the Lebanese crisis. The Arab tripartite committee will brief the summit's participants on the various phases of implementation. The Arab states will not hesitate to perform their duty to meet the needs of the peace process in Lebanon, until Lebanon restores its unity and full sovereignty, with the Almighty's help.

4. Any problem that the Lebanese national accord government may encounter will receive full attention, care, and follow up from the Arab higher tripartite committee and the Arab summit. The committee, backed by the Arab summit, will not hesitate to support the Lebanese national accord government in overcoming any obstacles that it may encounter.

5. The Arab higher tripartite committee reiterates the Arab states' commitment and determination to help the State of Lebanon in safeguarding its unity, independence, and sovereignty, in implementing the international resolutions which call for the complete elimination of the Israeli occupation, in strengthening all legitimate Lebanese institutions, the Constitution, its security, and its military, and in reconstructing Lebanon in cooperation with the rest of the world.

Finally, the Arab higher tripartite committee, as it expresses its full appreciation for the fruitful cooperation shown by sister Syria in order to arrive at this important stage, particularly appreciates sister Syria's reiteration of its readiness to make a serious contribution to putting the national reconciliation document into effect. While calling on all the parties concerned to demonstrate their sincere cooperation with the current efforts to provide a favorable atmosphere for completing the steps to be taken following the agreement reached in al-Ta'if, the Arab committee decides the following:

1. To request the speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies to hold a Chamber meeting, at a date not later than Tuesday, 9 Rabi' Awwal 1410 hegira year, corresponding to 7 November 1989, to elect a speaker and deputy speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and members of the Chamber's staff, to ratify the national reconciliation document, and to elect a president of the republic in accordance with the [Casablanca] Arab summit resolution.

2. To provide a secure venue for the meeting of the Chamber of Deputies, through coordination between the office of the Chamber speaker, the Arab tripartite committee representative in Lebanon, Lakhdar Ibrahimi, and other parties concerned.

3. To charge the Arab tripartite committee representative in Lebanon with the task of drawing up the security program designed to provide the necessary protection for the meeting's venue and guarantee the deputies arrival at the meeting place in coordination with the parties concerned.

4. Lakhdar Ibrahimi will immediately initiate the necessary measures to put these decisions into effect.

We implore the Almighty to guide us to what is best for fraternal Lebanon and for our glorious Arab nation.

Summit To Determine Syrian Presence

NC2510064289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1547 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] According to an urgent report distributed by AFP, the Arab tripartite committee has announced in Jeddah that an Arab summit meeting will be entrusted with the task of supervising and implementing a future agreement between Lebanon and Syria to determine the duration of the Syrian forces' presence in Lebanon.

According to AFP, this supervision will begin following the redeployment of Syrian troops in eastern Lebanon over a period not exceeding 2 years. The redeployment of forces will begin after constitutional reforms are voted on.

According to the text of the Arab tripartite committee statement which was read at the closing session of the Lebanese deputies in Jeddah today, the Syrian troops

should end their security mission in Lebanon during the redeployment period so that the legitimate Lebanese forces can take over.

King Fahd Lauds Parliamentarians

LD2410150389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1415 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 24 Oct (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, received the Lebanese Parliamentarians this afternoon at the Royal Court of al-Salam Palace in Jeddah. The parliamentarians concluded their meetings on Sunday [22 October] in al-Ta'if under the chairmanship of His Excellency Husayn al-Husayni, who introduced the deputies to the custodian of the two holy mosques.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; their royal highnesses the princes, and their excellencies the ministers: His Excellency Moroccan Foriegn Minister Abdellatif Filali; His Excellency Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Sayed Ghazali; and Lakhdar Ibrahimi, envoy of the Arab tripartite committee.

The custodian of the two holy mosques opened the ceremony by making a welcoming speech in which he congratulated the Lebanese parliamentarians on behalf of the higher Arab tripartite committee. Through them he expressed his most sincere congratulations to the fraternal Lebanese people, praising the fruitful results achieved by the parliamentarians during their meetings, which led to complete agreement on the clauses of the national accord document concerning the political situation and Lebanon's sovereignty, security, and stability.

He said: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thanks be to God for this blessed day, in which we meet in the city of Jeddah after the dear brothers completed their historic meetings, which history will record for those who attended the al-Ta'if meetings.

On this blessed day in Jeddah, I cannot express the thoughts of His Majesty King Hasan II, His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, and that of your brother who is before you now. We used to congratulate each other on the success of your conference and your venerable meeting in your second home. [passage omitted]

His Majesty King Hasan II and His Excellency Chadli Bendjedid informed me that after you reached what you had reached, they were completely satisfied, anxiety was diminishing, and sound thinking begun. [passage omitted]

Certainly, there is nothing which is completely difficult, and if we embark on a wise start, the remaining matters will be solved, God willing.

Thus when I said that we, as a tripartite committee, will continue to closely follow the situation, and not outside the framework of the House of Deputies, we are completely ready to exert good efforts when asked to do so. There is no doubt that the Arab countries share this opinion with me, although I have not consulted with them on anything. We will exert what efforts we can to contribute to the rebuilding of Lebanon because the one who knows the size of the damage that took place in Lebanon knows that the Lebanese people alone cannot rebuild Lebanon. We will contribute what we can, and I am convinced that peace-loving states in Europe, the U.S., and other countries will contribute toward making Lebanon what it used to be and even better. I am confident, moreover, based on my certain knowledge of Lebanese generosity that quicker than one can imagine Lebanon will return to what it used to be and Lebanon will be rebuilt in the desired form. I want to add that when the tripartite committee went to meet His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, he gave a favorable response by way of contributing whatever Lebanon needs to return it to its natural state. His excellency did not insist on anything; on the contrary, he looked forward to seeing a useful and constructive Lebanon, because his excellency fully knows this, and I know that the man's word is sincere. When he makes a commitment, he is serious and sincere, and this is the duty of any Arab leader. Some matters may have required the foreign ministers committee of the three countries [Morocco, Algeria, and Saudi Arabia] to go and knock on every door to ask Arab leaders to give an impetus to the Lebanese meeting and avoid those matters which disturb some or all leaders regarding the desired peace and stability.

I want to confirm once again the happiness and the commitment of the tripartite committee to continue to work whole-heartedly with you whenever needed, and we will make no moves on behalf of one group to the exclusion of another; we do not want this to happen in any case.

How can Lebanon return to what it used to be, while Israel is on Lebanese soil? This matter is of prime concern to the tripartite committee. Israel must leave Lebanon completely, and the Lebanese people must become free in their land, from north to south, from east to west. I can say that the Lebanese people are one of the most civilized people of the world, as there is no leader or deputy or common people who do not perform useful and constructive works for Lebanon. [passage omitted]

We hope that God will grant us success so that we can do what can be done for Lebanon. I hope to find myself, God willing, in the near future, among my brothers and friends in Lebanon. Thank you, and welcome in Lebanon.

GCC Commends King Fahd's Role

LD2410184789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1443 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Riyadh, 24 Oct SPA—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] General Secretariat has expressed its

pride in the effective role played by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, which enabled the Lebanese parliamentarians to reach an agreement at al-Ta'if.

The Secretariat said in a communique released today: "The attention, care, and persistence of the custodian of the two holy mosques to ensure the success (of the meetings) were distinguishing marks which made the agreement possible. such an agreement would not have been achieved without the will and without the efforts, thought, and energy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

In its communique the Secretariat also hailed the wisdom of the higher Arab tripartite committee and said that it had laid down the principles of a solution in line with a realistic vision based on reason and dialogue and centered on the feelings of the representatives of the Lebanese people and their appreciation of the responsibility.

The GCC General Secretariat stated that the restoration of security and peace in Lebanon will contribute to a great extent to the establishment of a permanent stability in the region and would enable the Lebanese people to devote their energies to peace, construction, and progress.

It also hailed the favorable response of the representatives of the Lebanese people and their appreciation of the responsibility out of their awareness of the delicate conditions the region is experiencing.

The Secretariat finally hailed the efforts made by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and his pursuit of the success of the al-Ta'if meetings.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends Message to President Bush

NC2410152289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1334 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—MENA has learned that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has sent a message to U.S. President George Bush on the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and on the ongoing acts of aggression and raids in the Palestinian territories, especially in Bayt Sahur.

A responsible Palestinian source has disclosed that the Palestinian president has received an official message from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Baker's five points. The source added that the Palestinian leadership is currently studying the message.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Visits CSSR 18-19 Oct

For Czechoslovak reportage on the visit by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the CSSR, including reports on his talks with CSSR Communist Party General Secretary Milos Jakes and 'Arafat's speech at a gala dinner held in his honor in Prague, please see the Czechoslovak section of the 24 October East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Salah Khalaf on Israeli Position, Ties With Syria

JN2110163889 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 19 Oct 89 p 7

[Text] Tunis—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, Abu-Iyad, has stressed that Israel's rejection of the Egyptian 10 points provides more evidence that it is not easy for Israel to make concessions, and that the United States will not pressure Israel to force it to accept anything.

In an exclusive statement to the AL-ITTIHAD correspondent in Tunis, Abu-Iyad said that the Palestinian leadership needs to reconsider its past year's political actions, pointing out that the Fatah Central Committee and the [PLO] Central Council will meet to assess this action and indicate the right and the wrong moves.

Abu-Iyad pointed out that in principle, the PLO is not against political action by Egypt or any other Arab state to end the stalemate. He said: The truth is that we did not get into the details of the Egyptian proposals. He added: This plan is only a group of questions posed to Israel, and I do not know how they have been turned into an initiative and a plan for settlement.

In this context, Abu-Iyad stressed: We need to reconsider our political action as a whole. He added: If our action continues without general rules, then this could mean that by discussing details we are relinquishing all the plans we made regarding a just and comprehensive settlement based on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and the right to self-determination and to repatriation. Anything other than this is a capitulation to Israel and to all its plans, and that there is no Palestine question.

Abu-Iyad said: I was one of those who wholeheartedly supported the Algiers resolutions. I see, however, that there is a dead end caused by Israel, and we must search for a way out of this dead end. Abu-Iyad denied that there is a plan to reconsider all the initiatives and resolutions that were adopted this year. He stressed that the issue is related to the way of dealing with the settlement and the details of political developments. He stressed that the issue is not related to changing developments.

In another development, Abu-Iyad said that the PLO is not against holding preparatory meetings with an Israeli delegation with the condition that these meetings not be at the expense of an international conference, but a means to facilitate it. He stressed that the PLO's condition is that it must be the side that names the members of the delegation from inside and outside [the occupied territories]. He said: This is something that Israel rejects

which proves that there are stubborn mentalities in Israel that have no desire for any peaceful settlement.

Abu-Iyad said: Any observer can see that we are offering everything and that they [the Israelis] offer nothing, but deal with us with the mentality of the Jewish Israeli merchant who wants to take everything and does not want to give anything.

Abu-Iyad stressed that the PLO will not stop the dialogue with the United States although the U.S. position is biased toward Israel and not objective at all. He added that the United States supports all Israel's positions. He said this does not prevent the continuation of the official dialogue in addition to the other contacts that take place through other channels.

Salah Khalaf stressed that contacts between the PLO and the progressive Jewish forces are taking place without any obstacles, despite the fact that these forces do not exert considerable influence in Israel and for the intransigent and fanatic decisionmakers who do not think of the future.

Regarding relations between the PLO and Syria, Abu-Iyad expressed his optimism over the future of these relations. He pointed out that a meeting was held among Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], and Faruq al-Shar' in Belgrade, during which a basis was laid down for the meeting that was held between Faruq Qaddumi, Abu-al-Lutf, and Faruq al-Shar' in New York. It was agreed that a Palestinian delegation will visit the Syrian capital at the end of this month. Abu-Iyad stressed that contacts and preparations are underway to make new proposals, on the chance that they will succeed.

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Message From Angolan President

NC2410150689 Cairo MENA in English 1429 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 24 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received today a message from Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. The message was handed to Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, during a meeting with the Angolan ruling party delegation.

The meeting dealt with means of boosting Egyptian-Angolan relations, notably those between the National Democratic Party and the Angolan Labour Party as well as the exchange of delegations and visits.

The visit of the Angolan delegation, which arrived here on Saturday, falls within the boosting of cooperation between the parties in implementation of the party cooperation agreement signed last June.

Mubarak Leaves for Al-Faw Celebration in Iraq

NC2510084589 Cairo MENA in English 0800 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 25 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak left here today for Baghdad to attend together with leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council member states celebrations marking the reconstruction of al-Faw.

Fatah Envoy on Mubarak-'Arafat Talks

NC2410180989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Fatah Movement representative in Cairo, has affirmed that the talks between President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat resulted in identical views of the two leaders on assessing the outcome of the political moves in the Arab and international arenas.

In a statement to MENA, he said the talks outlined the steps in the coming stage. He noted that the Likud bloc, led by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, is working to foil any peace move in the region. He said there must be active European and American pressure at various levels on the Israeli prime minister to push ahead the peace efforts in the region.

PLO's Al-Hasan Meets With 'Abd-al-Majid

NC2410180689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1517 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Movement Central Committee member and chairman of the Palestine National Council's Foreign Relations Committee, and Sa'id Kamal, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Cairo.

Al-Hasan said after the meeting that he and 'Abd-al-Majid had discussed some of the points that needed elaboration as part of the continuous coordination between Egypt and the PLO in light of the Egyptian and Palestinian leadership meeting, the contacts with the United States and Europe, and the Israeli position.

He added that the leaders of the four Arab Cooperation Council countries and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will discuss in Baghdad tomorrow, Wednesday, all aspects of coordination of positions on the Palestinian issue.

He said he also discussed with 'Abd-al-Majid those issues related to the al-Aqsa Mosque and Bayt Sahur village, which Israel has besieged, the Israeli practices in the occupied territories, and the need to adopt an Arab position toward these practices.

Al-Hasan pointed out that the PLO has not yet disclosed its view of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan.

UK Labor Party Foreign Secretary Ends Visit

NC2410104089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0947 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Gerald Kaufman, foreign secretary in the British Labor Party's shadow cabinet, left Cairo for his country this morning following a 2-day visit to Egypt. During his visit, he met with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and held talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on Middle East developments.

Editorial on Israel's Accepting 'Land for Peace'

JN2310201989 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 22 Oct 89 p 5

[Editorial: "A Principle That Has To Be Accepted First"]

[Text] Amid all the meetings, consultations, and proposals, and in the process of give and take by all sides to move the peace process forward in the Middle East, there is a fundamental and essential principle that must be clearly and unequivocally accepted. Failure to do so will make all the efforts and attempts to reach agreement on any meeting or negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides seem like plowing the sea.

The principle that must form the keystone for any talks and the foundation for any meeting is the principle of land for peace, because the rejection of this principle by any party will put a definite end to any negotiations even before they start. Such negotiations would be completely meaningless because they would lack the main objective for any meeting to settle the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Any talk about other, marginal issues would be a mere obstacle and a waste of time.

In order not to place the cart before the horse, as the saying goes, we believe that all efforts and contacts must first concentrate on obtaining Tel Aviv's acceptance of that principle. Any other issues would then become mere formalities and procedural matters on which agreement could be reached one way or another.

Although Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declares his rejection of the principle of land for peace, there is a large group of other politicians, as well as Israeli public opinion, who have declared their acceptance of that principle as the basis for talks with the Palestinians. If a plebiscite were held there, moreover, that principle would receive significant approval.

But, if Shamir insists on his position, which does not enjoy the support of anyone in the world, then other methods must be found to settle the question.

Editorial Envisions Shamir-U.S. 'Confrontation'

JN2310213089 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Oct 89 p 6

[Editorial: "Before the Confrontation"]

[Text] The assertion by knowledgeable U.S. Administration sources that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker intends to give up his efforts to hold an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue will certainly mean a setback for peace efforts, particularly given the international conviction that there is a need for such a dialogue and that it is of major importance as the main gateway to a comprehensive and just settlement. Certain members of the Israeli Cabinet are also completely convinced about initiating a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, not to mention the ever-increasing support of Israeli public opinion, as witnessed by the increase in the those joining the Peace Now movement.

Baker has been patient in dealing with the issue of a dialogue, and has been eager to reaffirm his support for Shamir's election plan in the occupied territories, and for the Egyptian 10 points, which enriched it with needed substance. At the same time, he refused to alter the framework of his five points, details of which have been leaked.

From this premise, a confrontation between the Israeli Government and the U.S. Administration is certainly coming, after Israel has brought about a confrontation between itself and most of the countries of the world. If Shamir has so far succeeded in hampering the peace process by more than one expedient, he will have to adopt some kind of position when he visits Washington next month. Shamir dealt with such a situation in the past by announcing his election plan, which he himself has buried. What can he offer now?

Shamir is mistaken if he believes that further negative positions will enable him to continue the occupation of Palestinian territory because the Palestinian and Arab struggle in the battle of peace is backed by right and by the might derived from the heroic intifadah. Let Shamir read the lessons of history to realize how weak his position is, in spite of the waves of repression, violence, and terrorism.

Papers Comment on Shamir's 'Delaying Tactics'

NC2410093889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0628 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—The newspapers AL-JUMHURIYAH and AL-AHRAM have criticized the delaying tactics adopted by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to confront all positive moves to promote peace in the Middle East.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Yitzhaq Shamir continues his procrastination because his plan for elections in the occupied Arab territories has failed after all hope that it would achieve peace in the Middle East was lost.

In its editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH says perhaps this fact will be considered by the Israeli Inner Cabinet when it meets this week to prepare a formal response to the proposals put forward by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The paper notes the positive Arab moves being conducted on various levels to promote peace in the Middle East and to maintain recent dynamism, particularly the Egyptian activity which is carried out in coordination with the PLO.

The paper stresses that the international community has become fully convinced of the soundness of Arab policy in general and Egyptian policy in particular. It remarks that this time the world will not allow an intransigent minority to control the fate of peace, particularly as the entire world is moving toward an accord for the sake of construction and stability.

AL-AHRAM comments on another aspect of Yitzhaq Shamir's delaying tactics, noting that what he says and what he thinks are frequently two different things. The paper points out that Shamir is currently provoking an artificial crisis with the United States.

In its editorial today, the paper says that Shamir will visit Washington in November and notes that, as has happened on previous occasions, it is usual for this visit to be preceded by an extensive Israeli media campaign that rises to "an artificial climax of disagreement" with the aim of extracting an exorbitant price in return for making concessions while at the same time "not moving away from Israel's original stands." The paper says this is an Israeli strategy that even the children of the intifadah have come to understand.

AL-AHRAM notes, however, that experience has proved that regardless of the extent of public disagreement between the United States and Israel, they always resort to a broad margin of understanding that defuses all sources of tension between them so that a true crisis, which would cause others to gloat, is averted.

In conclusion, the paper says that nothing will be achieved but the loss of time until the expected reconciliation between the two occurs.

Commentary Criticizes Shamir's Position

NC2410222189 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Jamal Hashim commentary]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has stated that the United States must be patient and it must not constantly watch for Israel's reply to the U.S. peace proposals. If anything, this statement indicates that Shamir does not look at the current peace efforts objectively or seriously and that he continues to pursue the policy of making situations look less severe in order to gain more time and make those seeking to rescue the Middle East peace march feel despondent and frustrated.

The Israeli prime minister, who demands that the U.S. Administration restrain itself, be patient, and not rush Israel to reply to the U.S. proposals, told a Likud Party meeting last Tuesday [17 October] that his country will not submit to pressure, that the Israeli forces will not withdraw from the territories they occupied in 1967, and that Israel will not allow the establishment of an Arab state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, because they are, according to him, Israeli territory and will remain so forever.

Yitzhaq Shamir has not been content with making these statements that deal a fatal blow to the peace efforts. He went even further, attacking the U.S. Middle East policy and accusing the U.S. Administration of dragging Israel to negotiations with the Palestinians, and saying that this is not in the interests of Israel. The U.S. State Department's answer to these statements was decisive and harsh, describing them as disappointing and futile and increasing the tension in the U.S.-Israeli relations.

Shamir disregarded all facts and demanded that the U.S. Administration be patient and not watch the clock all the time waiting for the Israeli reply to the U.S. proposals. Why the patience then if Shamir's provoctive statements last Tuesday clearly define his position on the peace efforts? He refuses to concede one inch of the territory which was occupied in 1967. He categorically refuses the establishment of an Arab state on the soil of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Furthermore, he considers the U.S. peace efforts as a continuous attempt by Washington to drag Israel to the negotiating table. In other words, Shamir does not want to relinquish the occupied territory and he does not want to negotiate. He attacks U.S. policy because, according to him, it seeks to drag him into the negotiations. If this is true, why does Shamir then advise the U.S. Administration to be patient? His position torpedoes the peace efforts from their roots portraying them as futile efforts going in a vicious circle.

On its part, the U.S. Administration in its reply to Shamir's statement wanted to hold the Israeli prime minister responsible for the abortion or obstruction of the peace process. The U.S. State Department spokeswoman said the United States is absolutely not prepared to assume responsibility for the failure of current efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. She demanded all parties concerned not to make statements which would complicate the situation further.

Despite all this, Shamir disregards all these facts and demands that the U.S. Administration restrain itself and be patient. Has there been any change in Shamir's position after these statements that warrants optimism? All evidence confirms that nothing in Shamir's position has changed. His practices in the occupied territory are becoming more violent. His outlook on the peace effort remains unchanged despite the fact that wide sectors of the Israeli public believe now that Shamir's ideas regarding peace are sterile and outdated and have been overtaken by events, and that security and stability cannot be achieved while the Palestinian lands continue to be forcibly occupied.

Today the Israeli Knesset began discussing six motions to take a vote of confidence on Shamir's government, five of these citing the deadlock in the peace process and the sixth citing the economic conditions. We are almost certain, however, that Shamir's government will win the vote of confidence. This is because the leaders of Israel, hawks and doves, Likud and Labor members alike, have a single political line in common, despite political maneuvers and trivial differences that are nothing but a tempest in a teapot.

The two leading Israeli parties have disagreed in the past on Shamir's elections plan, but then later both the Knesset and the Israeli Cabinet approved the plan. The two parties have also disagreed over the brutal measures introduced to suppress the Palestinian intifadah. The Knesset then approved these measures.

This, however, is not our main topic today. What we wish to say is that there is a visible discontent within Israel for the faltering pace of the peace process. Shamir understands this well, but he has opted to stand up against the tide of peace and lash out against all opinions different of his own. Shamir is even threatening a confrontation with the United States because it is, as he puts it, trying to drag and push him to negotiations.

Knowing Shamir's current policies, it is hard to understand his call on the U.S. Administration to exercise self-restraint, be patient, and not ask for a quick answer to the U.S. peace proposals.

Observers believe that Shamir understood he had made a mistake when he angered the U.S. Administration with his statements and lost the sympathy of American Jews. Shamir himself admitted this in a telephone conversation with U.S. President George Bush. Shamir said he expects the U.S.-Israeli ties to be tense for some time and

added that none of Israel's friends in the United States has supported his elections plan.

We tell Shamir that should he maintain this aggressive and provocative line, he will not find one friend anywhere supporting his rejection of the peace process.

Shamir's call to the United States to exercise patience and his assertion that the U.S.-Israeli conflict is a marginal one are merely attempts on his side to return matters to normal and contain the damage which his abusive remarks have caused regarding both the U.S. Administration and the U.S. public.

Another group of observers believe Shamir has been in the habit of creating crises with the U.S. Administration prior to any visit he makes to Washington to discuss peace efforts. Shamir, according to this view, would assume hardline positions that he would not soften until he gets the material and moral support he seeks. These observers note that Shamir is expected in Washington next month.

Shamir's criticism of the peace efforts and his attacks on the U.S. Administration, which he has softened of late, could well be construed either as political maneuvers or blackmail. The undisputed fact, however, is that Shamir reflects Israel's position on the peace efforts. This position is a dangerous one, for it harbors certain obsolete concepts about peace. Such concepts view peace solely from an Israeli perspective and therefore define it as a means to safeguard Israeli security in total disregard of Arab security and Palestinian rights.

Morocco

Weizsaecker Holds News Conference in Rabat

LD1910191289 Rabat MAP in English 1238 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Rabat, Oct 19 (MAP)—Visiting West German President Richard von Weizsaecker has highlighted the "very good" quality of relations between Morocco and the Federal Republic of Germany, saying they could be further consolidated and diversified.

At a press conference Wednesday in Rabat, President Weizsaecker said his talks with King Hassan II and with Premier Azzedine Laraki and Speaker of the House of Representatives Ahmed Osman had been "very open," permitting a "very serious" exchange of views on bilateral and international issues.

He said although language constitutes a handicap for the two countries, they both intend overcoming it, mainly through cultural exchanges.

President Weizsaecker stressed the need to upgrade economic cooperation, mainly industrial, through joint ventures and investment. He said German investors have understood that the Arab Maghreb Union (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Mauritania) "is progressing rapidly," and are particularly interested in this region where Morocco occupies a privileged position.

He hailed the creation of the Arab Maghreb Union which, he said, will help the region "overcome differences." He expressed "optimism over this," underlining the unifying factors of [words indistinct].

Sends Message to King, Departs

LD2310132289 Rabat MAP in English 1220 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Rabat, Oct. 23 (MAP)—Upon leaving Morocco at the end of a five-day official visit, West German President Richard von Weizsaecker addressed King Hassan II a message expressing his gratitude for the hospitality reserved him, his spouse, and the delegation accompanying them.

"Our talks on the situation of our bilateral relations and other issues of international policy have been particularly fruitful," President Weizsaecker said. He added "Your majesty's analysis and evaluation of problems raised have been very precious to me." President Weizsaecker also said he was "very touched" by the king's "understanding of Germany's situation and its history."

At a dinner banquet he offered in Weizsaecker's honor Tuesday evening, King Hassan had reiterated a statement by the German president himself affirming that "East and West Germany are united by affinities of so elementary a nature that neither partitioning nor time will succeed in erasing." President Weizsaecker had arrived here last Monday in the first official visit ever by a West German president to Morocco.

Senegal's Diouf Arrives for Meeting on EEC

LD2410090589 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Senegalese President Abdou Diouf arrived in Morocco today to participate in the Rabat conference organized by the African League of the Socialist and Democratic Parties on the topic: Relations between Africa and the EEC [word indistinct] a single market in 1992. [passage omitted]

Received by King Hassan II

LD2410140789 Rabat MAP in English 1218 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Rabat, Oct 24 (MAP)—King Hassan II received here Monday evening President Abdou Diouf of Senegal and later on hosted a dinner banquet in his honor.

President Diouf arrived in Rabat Monday afternoon to preside at the colloquium of the Socialist and Democratic Inter-African (SIDA) [parties] due to start its works this Tuesday under the topic "Africa-EEC relations in the prospect of the unique market of 1992."

The Senegalese head of state told the media upon arrival that he would review with King Hassan II means of bolstering bilateral cooperation and discuss with him the Senegalese-Mauritanian conflict. "It is a matter I will thoroughly discuss with H.M. [his majesty] the king to record the advice and recommendations of a brother and a friend," President Diouf said.

He recalled in this respect the visits Egyptian President and OAU Acting Chairman Husni Mubarak paid to Senegal and Mauritania at the head of an African mediation mission pointing out that the visit enabled to disentangle this "thorny problem."

President Mubarak also summoned a ministerial meeting on the fringes of the UN General Assembly on October 5. The ministers attending the meeting decided to visit Senegal and Mauritania next November to evaluate the situation on the spot and to convene by the beginning of December to make practical proposals likely to make the dossier progress. "Till then, we must both (Mauritanians and Senegalese) give proof of self-restraint and of a greater serenity to safeguard the essential," President Diouf said expressing hope that the OAU mission would reach positive results.

"I will discuss the issue at length with King Hassan II because I know his influence, his objectivity, his thorough knowledge of political problems and I am convinced that he will always use the language of truth, brotherhood, and friendship while addressing both the Mauritanians and the Senegalese," President Diouf said, adding that Senegal and Mauritania are doomed to live together and that therefore all those attempting to settle their conflict are welcome.

The Senegalese head of state added that he would also discuss with the sovereign a number of other African and international issues such as the Lebanese crisis and the laudable efforts made by the Arab tripartite committee (Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Algeria) to settle this crisis." I would congratulate the sovereign for the committee's excellent work," President Diouf said.

As to the SIDA colloquium, President Diouf said the topic to be discussed by African political parties and parties from other continents is of utter importance not only for European countries but also for their partners whether from Africa or from other parts of the world.

Sudan

Dialogue Conference To Submit Recommendations

EA2010131689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] The national dialogue conference will submit its final recommendations to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] on Saturday morning, the day after tomorrow, at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum, amid official and popular celebrations of this historic occasion which coincides with the silver jubilee of the anniversary of the glorious October Revolution.

The steering committee of the national dialogue about peace issues has, moreover, approved in its meeting this morning, at the Friendship Hall, chaired by Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the RCC and chairman of the steering committee, the final report of the steering committee, which comprises the recommendations of the various committees. The meeting was attended by Brigadier Pio Yukwan, member of the RCC.

More on Conference Reports

EA2310133089 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Chaired by the chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] and the prime minister, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, a meeting of the Council of Ministers at the council's general secretariat yesterday heard a report by member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and chairman of the Political Committee, Staff Brigadier 'Uthman Ahmad al-Hasan. The report covered the political developments which have occurred in the country over the past period, the most important of which was the national dialogue conference which has concluded its business and submitted its recommendations to the NSRCC chairman.

In reference to this, the minister of culture and information and the government's official spokesman, 'Ustadh 'Ali Muhammad Shummu, said that in the next few days there would be a move abroad to which the members of the conference would contribute by explaining the developments of the southern problem and by correcting the wrong concepts held about this problem.

He pointed out that this move would cover Arab, African, and other states in the world. The official spokesman added that there would also be a move inside Sudan to be carried out by the conference steering committee covering the various regions in the country.

His excellency said the report had pointed out that the recommendations would be submitted to the RCC for discussion at its next meeting and that a joint session would be attended by foreign ambassadors in Sudan and those responsible for the conference with the aim of briefing them on the proposals and recommendations of the conference.

On another topic, the official spokesman said the coming period would see the convocation of a number of conferences within the framework of the RCC Political Committee's programs, covering the differing views on various issues. These conferences would study methods to promote the work of the civil service and difficulties related to it. There would be a conference on migrants to be held in mid-November and also other conferences on the role of women, the popular committees, the foreign

service, and the tribal reconciliation in Kordofan which was achieved some time ago.

SPLA 'Rejection' Noted

EA2410170589 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 24 (SUNA)—Rejection of the recommendations of the national dialogue conference on peace by the rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], [word indistinct] mean imposition of war upon the Sudanese people, said chairman of the National Salvation Command, General 'Umar Hasan al- Bashir. Al-Bashir told a press conference today, that if the war is imposed, the Sudanese people are capable to wage the war in order to achieve peace.

Negotiations with the rebel SPLA need abundant time and the government will exert utmost efforts to reach peace, asserted the chairman of the National Salvation Command. He added that the recommendations of the national dialogue conference on peace would convince a wide sector in the rebel SPLA, expressing hope that the recommendations would convince the whole movement.

'Federal System' Recommended

EA2410130589 Khartoum SUNA in English 1058 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, October 24th—Chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Council General 'Umar al-Bashir affirmed that the federal system, which was recommended by the recent national dialogue conference as the best option for ruling the country, would be implemented by the revolution according to a detailed programme.

In a press conference he held here today, Al-Bashir described the recommendations of the conference as "serious".

Al-Bashir News Conference on 'Southern Question'

EA2410210089 Khartoum SUNA in English 1615 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 24 (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, explained that the revolution has dealt seriously with the southern question for the sake of materialising lasting and fair peace.

In a press conference he held here today, Gen al-Bashir enumerated the steps being taken by the revolution toward achieving peace, referring in this regard to the cease-fire declaration, the general pardon and permitting of relief supplies to go even to the rebel-controlled areas.

He said all these efforts were exerted to reflect the good gesture of the revolution and its utmost goal for realising the peace.

Gen al-Bashir affirmed that the revolution will not tolerate the loss of one span of the Sudanese territories. Al-Bashir has denied that the revolution is intending to disengage the south and also denied that such matters had been discussed in the national dialogue conference.

He pointed out that the revolution has (?passed) the accusations that it has a political affiliation mainly to the Islamic Front, adding that the revolution will not pay attention to such accusation.

On the Armed Forces' movement despite the cease-fire declaration, Gen al-Bashir said the move towards peace doesn't mean the halting of the logistical operations which are normal in any army in the world. He added that a move towards peace, or the realization of peace, doesn't mean the disbanding of the Armed Forces.

On the recent movements of former President Numayri, Gen al-Bashir said Numayri's question had been passed by time, adding that what has been said or done by Numayri is of no meaning in the eyes of the revolution. Numayri didn't benefit from the period he spent when he was in power or in exile, and he is adopting views of a group surrounding him, he said.

Gen al-Bashir said contacts with Ethiopia are still continuing for the sake of [word indistinct] resolving all problems of the two countries.

Comments on Contacts With Egypt

EA2410222789 Khartoum SUNA in English 1014 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 24 (SUNA)—Contacts and consultations with our brothers in Egypt had not stopped since the eruption of the revolution [words indistinct], said the chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Council, General 'Umar al-Bashir in a press conference he held here today. Al-Bashir confirmed that Egypt is sharing [as received] Sudan in the peace efforts, saying that fortunately President Husni Mubarak of Egypt is the current president of the OAU, [words indistinct] is an important element in assisting to reach peace in the south.

Says SPLA Attacked Eastern Town

EA2410124089 Khartoum SUNA in English 1055 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Oct (SUNA)—Chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command, NSRC, General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir has confirmed that the rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] had attacked the bordering town of Kurmuk [on Ethiopian border 400 miles southeast of Khartoum] in eastern Sudanese region.

Al-Bashir told a press conference here today that the SPLA had attacked Kurmuk at a time when the national dialogue conference on peace reached its final stage. The Sudanese Armed Forces have inflicted heavy casualties

upon the SPLA, he asserted, adding that the government had delayed the [words indistinct] the SPLA to [words indistinct] Kurmuk because it did not want to spoil the pleasure of the celebration of the October Revolution.

Al-Bashir has ruled out the allegations saying the Sudanese Armed Forces have started the attack.

Battle Victory Reported

EA2410151089 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Yesterday, 23 October 1989, 'Umar al-Bashir's forces, named "Aman al-Kurmuk" ["Safety of Kurmuk"] were completely dispersed in the (Shurkum) area, 20 km northwest of Kurmuk. The SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces of New Funj [referring to a 16th century sultanate] are now in pursuit of remnants of 'Umar al-Bashir's forces in the direction of Al-Damazin.

Our forces of the New Funj captured five abandoned military trucks with their loads, all in good condition and bearing the following military registration numbers: Magirus number 56294, Magirus number 56295, Magirus number 56296, Magirus number 565274, Bedford number 265474.

According to captured soldiers, 'Umar al-Bashir's forces left al-Damazin for (Dondoro) on 9 October 1989 with orders to proceed and to clear out all SPLA forces between Al-Damazin and Kurmuk and to reinforce Kurmuk. The force was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel al-Sayyid Jamal al-Din. They reached and attacked SPLA forces at (Abu-al-Dugu), (Shurkum) and (Mayak) on 16 October 1989, and fighting lasted 7 days, until yesterday, 23 October 1989, when the 'Umar al-Bashir force was dispersed and fled, leaving behind trucks, ammunition, and heavy weapons recently acquired from abroad.

SPLA forces of the New Funj are monitoring the movement of Al-Bashir's second force, which is under the command of Colonel Muhammad 'Ali al-Haji. This second force left al-Damazin on 20 October 1989 to reinforce Al-Bashir's force that was dispersed yesterday. SPLA forces of the New Funj remain in firm control of (Abu-al-Dugu), (Shurkum) and (Mayak) in Blue Nile Province after repulsing 'Umar al-Bashir's attack.

The new force under Colonel Muhammad 'Ali al-Haji will certainly meet the same fate, and SPLA High Command here appeals to officers, NCO's, and men in Col Muhammad 'Ali al-Haji's force to disobey these illegal orders and not to attack SPLA forces in the area. You remain in (Dondoro) and we assure you that the SPLA will not attack you. The SPLA High Command is aware that 'Umar al-Bashir's intention is to destroy the Sudanese Army and to replace it with a sectarian National Islamic Front army. It is necessary for patriotic elements in the Sudanese Army to cooperate with the SPLA in both War Zone One and War Zone Two.

Rebels Repulsed From Kurmuk

EA2410205489 Khartoum SUNA in French 1545 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 24 (SUNA)—General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, has disclosed that the armed rebel movement in southern Sudan planned to occupy the border town of Kurmuk in Central Province as a "present" to the Sudanese people to mark the closure of the peace conference and 25th anniversary of the October 1964 popular revolution.

Gen al-Bashir added that the rebel elements had launched a large-scale attack on the town in order to achieve their objective. But the people's Armed Forces managed to drive off the attackers, inflicting heavy loss of human life.

Gen al-Bashir described the accusations of the armed rebel movement that the government army had started the attack as "totally baseless" since the clashes took place at the town of Kurmuk and not in the southern Sudanese operational area.

As for the activities and movements of the Armed Forces, Gen al-Bashir noted that moves towards peace do not mean neglecting the reinforcement of the people's Armed Forces which defend the country.

Al-Bashir Comments on Trade Protocol With Egypt

NC2110113089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1006 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Oct (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, gave an exclusive interview to Sudan's AL-INQADH AL-WATANI today. He affirmed that the trade protocol signed with Egypt after the revolution was the most important protocol in the history of relations between the two countries. He noted that it was signed after a period during which all previous protocols were frozen.

Al-Bashir pointed out that contacts between Egypt and John Garang, which some people talk about, are being held for Sudan's benefit and in the service of issues relating to peace.

Lt Gen al-Bashir noted that the revolution is seeking to establish a kind of link with Saudi Arabia through a joint committee. He also stated that relations between Sudan and neighboring African countries are witnessing significant improvement and that the government is seeking to improve them further. He pointed out that the agreement signed with Ethiopia is still valid and that it is

being implemented. He also said that Sudanese delegations will visit African countries to brief them on the outcome of the national dialogue conference.

On relations with the United States, Al-Bashir declared that the United States is now convinced that the national salvation revolution is serious in its pursuit of peace. He remarked that this is one of the factors contributing to the daily improvement of relations. He also noted that Western Europe is still following up the situation in Sudan closely.

Al-Bashir said that his country seeks to strengthen relations with certain East Asian countries because they are neutral over political, ethnic, and religious disputes in the region and they deal with others on the basis of their seriousness in the decisionmaking process.

Lt Gen al-Bashir asserted that the revolution does not act on the spur of the moment but in accordance with a clear-cut policy. It advances along a charted course, he stated.

He denied that his government is seeking reconciliation with political detainees, asserting that this is out of the question until investigations have been concluded and every criminal and corrupt politician has been brought to account.

Commenting on rumors about the interrogation and torture of former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Al-Bashir said the investigation teams have not summoned Al-Mahdi yet. He added, however, that in view of information on hostile acts committed by the dissolved Al-Ummah Party at Al-Mahdi's instructions, the authorities summoned Al-Mahdi to question him about certain papers smuggled to his aides from prison. He noted that Al-Mahdi had sent him a letter in that connection, which contained no reference to torture or interrogation.

Asked about Dr Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi and reports about his solitary confinement, Al-Bashir said that Al-Turabi had been moved to a solitary cell after a clash with a prison warden and that the government had nothing to do with his solitary confinement.

Eastern Region Governor Dismissed; New One Named

EA1910104289 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], today issued a decree dismissing Staff Major General Bakri Almak Musa as governor of the Eastern Region.

His excellency also issued a decree providing for the reappointment of Retired Major General Yusuf Bashir Siraj to the military service and his appointment as governor of the Eastern Region.

Meanwhile, Staff Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, member of the NSRCC and the council's official spokesman, has stressed the determination of the National Salvation Revolution to realize the aspirations for which it was launched, especially regarding fighting corruption in all its forms and manifestations. He said the National Salvation Revolution would uproot all manifestations of transgressions affecting public funds. He said the revolution had come about to entrench uprightness, decency, and good behavior, especially regarding good behavior when dealing with public property.

In a statement issued following the dismissal of the governor of the Eastern Region, Col Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman said that the revolution had kept its word indeed by trying corrupt elements of the defunct regime, issuing the illegal holdings law, warning all officials everywhere to maintain discipline, good behavior, and to set a good example for others.

The NSRCC said it had learned that the governor of the Eastern Region had issued decrees providing for the furnishing of his house and the houses of his deputies. The initial bills for the furniture of the governor reflected a large sum of money to be met from the regional budget, which was affected by a shortage of revenue, like the budgets of other regions. The governor had also issued decrees appointing a cook, steward, a dresser, and a follower for himself and his deputies.

When it was found that these decrees did not match up to the revolution's spirit of austerity, but on the contrary were a mere continuation of the behavior of the partisan and sectarian regime which the revolution came to uproot, the NSRCC issued a decree dismissing the governor of the Eastern Region and appointing a successor.

The council stresses that the revolution continues to uphold the slogans it has launched, and that it will not hesitate to take to task anyone, regardless of his rank. The NSRCC official spokesman called on officials everywhere and on our masses to fear God as regards public funds and to keep them safe.

Three Members of Previous Government Released

EA1910194789 Khartoum SUNA in French 1525 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Oct (SUNA)—Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, NSRCC, has confirmed reports that three former members of the state supreme council, the Presidency of the Republic, have been released.

In an interview with the daily newspaper AL-INQADH AL-WATANI [NATIONAL SALVATION], Lt Col Khalifah indicated that Mr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, Mr Mirghani al-Nasri, and Mr Pacifico Lado Lolik have been freed recently. The NSRCC member added that all political prisoners would be released and that only those who had been convicted would remain in jail.

It is worth noting that the two other members of the former supreme council have experienced a different fate. Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani, the head of the dissolved council, has been living abroad since 30 June when the revolution took place, while the fifth member, Iddis al-Banna, has been sentenced to 40 years in jail for corruption and abuse of power.

Kassiano Visits Juba To Assess Security

EA2010163089 Khartoum SUNA in French 1530 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Juba (Sudan), 19 October—Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council and political supervisor of Equatoria Province, arrived in Juba, capital of the southern Sudanese province of Equatoria, today [19 October] for a 3-day visit to acquaint himself with the situation in the region, in particular security. The governor of Equatoria Province confirmed in a press release that the security situation in the region is calm. Brig Kassiano is accompanied on his visit by the ministers of health, refugees and relief affairs, and local government.

Denies Arms Shipped to Equatoria

EA2010185689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Staff Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, member of the National Revolution Command Council and the political supervisor of the Equatoria Region, has denied recent reports that a large quantity of arms has arrived in Equatoria Region. He described the reports as rumors. He said the arms which had arrived in the region bore no relation to the quantities referred to in those rumors. He stressed it was the responsibility of the revolution to protect citizens, their property, and the property of the state, as well as to defend the country's resources.

His excellency added that those who steal the people's food and workers' salaries in the southern regions will be brought to trial. He said people's committees will soon be formed in Equatoria Region to supervise supplies. He stated this experiment will be fully implemented in all the provinces of the southern regions.

Rules Out Southern Secession

EA2210200589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council and the political superviser of the southern region, has stressed that the revolution has no intention of separating the south from the north and that the matter is in no way under consideration. His excellency said this in an address to the political and executive leadership in Juba. He said the practical activities of the people's salvation committees, which would assume political and trade union roles to achieve the goals of the revolution, would begin within the next few days. He said agreement had been reached between the organizations implementing Operation Lifeline and the Garang Movement to open river navigation between Kosti and Juba for the transportation of relief supplies.

Brig Kassiano arrived in Juba last week for an inspection tour of Equatoria accompanied by the ministers of health; relief; local government; and his excellency, the German ambassador in Khartoum.

Former Vice President: SPLA Backs Separatism

EA2110121089 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Oct—Deputy chairman of the national dialogue conference of peace, General (retired) Joseph Lagu has accused the rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] of Colonel John Garang of calling for the separation of the south from the north as it continues fighting and threatens the security of the country.

Lagu outlined here today that the southern rebel movement is based on the separation because it does not respond to the invitation extended to it by the Revolutionary Command for taking part in the national dialogue conference on peace wound-up sessions yesterday. [sentence as received]

The southern prominent politcian denied the rumours, saying some southerners had called for the separation of the south, from inside the national dialogue conference. "It is merely allegations from the SPLA to undermine the internal front," he asserted. He added that the participants in the conference work for the unity of Sudan.

Al-Bashir: Teams To Tour 'Sisterly' Countries

EA2510084289 Khartoum SUNA in English 1012 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 24th Oct—Chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Council, Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, has announced that delegations from the members of the national dialogue conference on peace, which wound up sessions here recently, would tour the friends and sisterly countries to explain the recommendation of the conference. The African countries will be the first to visit because those countries are concerned with achieving peace in Sudan, he said in a press conference he held here today.

Court Decides To Retry Idris al-Banna

PM1910160989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Oct 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Idris al-Banna To Stand Trial Again"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Sudanese judicial authorities yesterday emphasized that

former Sudanese State Council Deputy Chairman Idris al-Banna, already sentenced to 40 years imprisonment, is to be retried to give him the chance to contest the previous ruling.

A responsible source pointed out to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that it was the Court of Appeal which decided to return the documents of indictment in Idris al-Banna's case in response to the wish of Special Court No 3, which passed the original verdict. The sources emphasized that Al-Banna did not request the appeal; he has rejected all opportunities offered to defend himself.

The source added that a revolution court, to be announced and comprising civilian judges, will assume the trial of Idris al-Banna. [passage omitted]

Unity Province Headquarters Transferred

AB2310140089 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Brigadier Pio Yukwan, National Salvation Revolution Command Council member, supervisor general of the Southern Council, and political supervisor of the Upper Nile Region, has issued a decree tranferring the headquarters of Unity Province to Bentiu town [previously in Khartoum] and ordering the opening of a small coordination office in Kadugli.

Kuwait

General on F-18 Purchase, Mirage Rejection

JN2310205889 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 22 Oct 89 pp 1, 30

[By Sa'd al-Shamri]

[Excerpt] Staff Major General Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah, deputy chief of the General Staff, has described his highness the amir's visit to France as a most successful visit on every level. He said his highness carried a message of peace from all the Arab and Islamic countries.

He added in a statement to AL-ANBA' that Kuwait is coordinating with France, through military advisers, to exchange opinions concerning world peace. This does not mean discussing military deals.

On whether they intend to buy weapons soon, he said that the Kuwaiti Armed Forces are drawing up a seasonal program for studying their defense needs, like any other military force. He added that current studies confirm that we are not in need of weapons. He said that the Kuwaiti weapons are modern and effective.

Regarding the purchase of Mirage 2000, he pointed out that there has been a great deal of talk about the Mirage 2000 deal. Kuwait believes that the F-18 fighter plane is appropriate for its Air Force. This, however, does not mean that the other planes are inferior to it, but there is no intention now to buy the Mirage 2000.

He stated that the Armed Forces constantly review their weapons and consider developing and adding to them to serve the defense plan. If there is any need for the aforementioned plane, then France is a friendly and peace-loving country close to the arab world. [passage omitted]

Defense Officials Receive UK Air Force Chief

LD2410150189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1041 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 24 (KUNA)—The British Air Force Chief of Staff Marshal Sir Peter Harding conferred here Tuesday with Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Major General Mayzad 'Abd al-Rahmank al-Sane' on defense and issues of mutual interests.

Marshal Harding who arrived here last night on a one-day official visit, was also received by Defense Ministry Under-Secretary Faysal 'Ali al-Daud.

A Defense Ministry spokesman said the British official did not hold a previously scheduled meeting with Defense Minister Shaykh Nawaf al-Ahmad due to the minister's departure to Baghdad early today as personal representative of H.H. the Amir to attend Iraq's celebrations marking reconstruction of the war-devastated southern port city of al-Faw.

The spokesman denied earlier reports that Shaykh Nawaf had received Sir Harding on Tuesday and discussing a number of issues pertaining to military cooperation between Kuwait and Britain.

Defense Minister Leaves for Baghdad Festivities

LD2410122689 Kuwait KUNA in English 0942 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 24 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Minister of Defense Shaykh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah left for Baghdad today to represent H.H. [His Highness] the amir in celebrations marking the reconstruction of the war-battered southern Iraqi port of Fao.

Before his departure Shaykh Nawaf said he is making the visit on behalf of the amir who was invited by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Shaykh Nawaf also added that he will be conveying a message to the Iraqi president from H.H. the amir concerning bilateral relations.

Qatar

UK's Thatcher Arrives in Doha on 'Short Visit'

JN2410190589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Doha, 24 Oct (WAKH)—British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher arrived in Doha this evening on a short visit to the State of Qatar.

At the head of those receiving her were His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and minister of defense; the ministers; and senior civilian and military officials.

During the visit, Thatcher will hold talks with the senior Qatari officials on the situation in the region, the latest Arab and international developments, and issues of common concern.

The British prime minister praised the existing relationship between the two countries and said that her visit to Qatar underlines the strength and depth of bonds between the two sides.

In a statement to QNA, Thatcher said her talks with the amir and heir apparent of Qatar will deal with regional and international issues as well as ways of enhancing cooperation.

Holds Talks With Prime Minister

JN2410194989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1840 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Doha, 24 Oct (WAKH)—Official talks between His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, amir and prime minister of Qatar, and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who arrived in Doha earlier today, opened here this evening.

On the Qatari side, the talks were attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister, and on the British side by Charles Powell, private secretary of the prime minister; and Patrick Nixon, the British ambassador to Qatar.

A source close to the talks told QNA that the two sides reviewed regional, Arab, and international issues. Regarding the situation between Iraq and Iran, the two sides expressed full support for efforts to expedite the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 through direct talks between the two neighboring countries under UN auspices with a view to reaching a just, lasting, and comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

The source said the two sides renewed their strong belief that the international peace conference is the appropriate way to bring about a just, durable, and comprehensive Middle East peace. This conference should be held under the auspices of the United Nations, attended by all concerned parties, and be based on Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and other related UN resolutions.

Concerning the Lebanese crisis, the two sides welcomed the outcome of the al-Ta'if meetings, the agreement of the Lebanese deputies on the national reconciliation document. They expressed the hope that this will signal the beginning of the end to the crisis and the suffering which the Lebanese people have been experiencing for 14 years.

The two sides praised the persistent and fruitful efforts of the higher tripartite Arab committee, which the latest Arab summit in Casablanca established and which enjoys full international support in its endeavor to get Lebanon out of its plight, restore its peace and stability, and maintain its unity and independence.

The source said the talks, characterized by a spirit of friendship and understanding, dealt with a number of regional and intenational issues of common concern, in addition to prospects for strengthening and expanding bilateral relations.

Amir Receives Message From Djibouti President

JN2410142289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1105 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Doha, 24 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani has received a written message from Djibouti President Hassan Gouled. The message was delivered by Moumin Bahdon Farah, Djibouti minister for foreign affairs and cooperation, during his reception by his highness the amir of Qatar in Doha today.

The message deals with the situation in the Horn of Africa and the new developments in the Arab arena, in addition to a means of continuing cooperation between the two countries.

Yemen Arab Republic

Al-Asbahi Returns From Qatar With Message

JN2410123889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Brother Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, member of the Consultative Council and secretary of the Standing Committee, returned to Sanaa from Doha today after a visit to the State of Qatar. During the visit, he conveyed a message to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani from his brother Colonel President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

In a statement to SABA, Dr al-Asbahi said that he was carrying a reply message to the president leader from his brother the amir of the State of Qatar.

PDRY Agriculture Minister Muqbil Arrives 23 Oct

JN2310130089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Brother Dr Mahmud 'Ali Muqbil, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform in the southern part of the homeland, arrived in Sanaa today. [passage omitted]

Meets With Prime Minister

JN2410143689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, today received brother Dr Mahmud 'Ali Muqbil, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, in the southern part of the homeland. During the meeting they reviewed aspects of cooperation between the two parts in the agricultural area. The meeting was attended by Nasir al-'Awlaqi, minister of agriculture and fisheries.

Saddam Marks Al-Faw's Reconstruction in Speech

JN2510120489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0802 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn marking the end of the campaign to rebuild al-Faw—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Great Iraqis, and zealous Arabs, officials, and sons of the nation: This day you are now celebrating is the day of al-Faw. Al-Faw has 2 days: A day for liberation and sacrifice, and a day for action and reconstruction. The first day was given to us, and the second day we, ourselves, had to give. These are 2 days. There is a third day, for which, I believe, we will not be made to account, because God has wished it so and no one can question God's will.

Al-Faw was a pile of rubble when it was liberated by the valiant men. On that day, these valiant men set fire to the remaining footprints of the invaders on al-Faw territory. No one could identify what remained of the features and characteristics of al-Faw except its liberators, who cherish it, and the Arabs who cherish al-Faw in their hearts and minds and remember it as a symbol of good meanings and a banner of glory. This is what al-Faw used to represent. Some believed that even if liberated, life would not return to it, and that it would become a liability to its inhabitants, and a vestige of the past, instead of becoming a manifestation that its people are determined to cope with life in this age, and a symbol of progress with all the militant meanings that this entails. After the valiant men liberated al-Faw from the invaders' filth, we did not leave al-Faw in ruins calling for help to rescue it from the invaders this time, but for help to shed its torn apparel. The only touch of beauty in this torn apparel was the pure blood of the martyrs.

In the same manner that the valiant men rose to the challenge to liberate al-Faw with their blood, the people, too, rose to the challenge this time, offering funds which they had saved for their daily subsistence, for building a house, or funds saved to buy medicines for those who needed them. Instead of crying for help and loitering at the doors of the world societies that were established by the big powers, which built their countries through the exploitation of others and the occupation of their territories—and instead of knocking at the doors of these big powers and asking for assistance they would have easily given to others, had they asked for it—we rose up from within, and with God's help, we realized that the road to the reconstruction of al-Faw is an honor that complements the honor of liberating it.

Such are the great potentialities of glorious Iraq and the bountiful offering of its sons and those of our Arab brothers who generously participated, as we announced at the time. O Arabs, this is your day. O zealous Arabs, this is your day, the day you tasked the valiant Iraqis and the day the Iraqis took it upon themselves to act on your behalf in the liberation and the reconstruction. O great Iraqis, this is your day, which comes after the day of liberation. Al-Faw of sacrifice and martyrdom has returned to you, donning its beautiful attire, which you have embroidered with the blood of men, and with the daily subsistence means from which you have deprived yourselves, after you had liberated it with pure blood.

What does the liberation of al-Faw from its rubble and old character mean? What does it mean to reconstruct a city in which every border post, school, house, and mosque was destroyed? What does it mean when even water pipes were uprooted from the earth and asphalt plucked off its roads? What is the significance of the determination to replace al-Faw's old clothing, which it had before the war, with the clothing of a new city in the full sense of the word? What is the significance of the determination to begin the reconstruction campaign of al-Faw on 25 June 1989, during which we continued working through the hottest days of summer when the temperature was more than 60 degrees centigrade in the shade?

The determination to do this, and the sacrifice of our funds that it took, is an everlasting and great memorial to the blood of the men who liberated the city. The rebuilding of al-Faw in this manner, to which no foreign expertise or hands contributed, stands as a distinguished gate among the gates of the new Iraq. It is evidence of its awakening on the road of reconstruction, and proof of its humanitarian, national, and pan-Arab role. This comes in an age where man can have no respect or a clear, guaranteed, and prosperous future without being successful in development.

The war against the aggressors went on for 8 years before fighting stopped, when God granted us a righteous victory. The cards were reshuffled, or this is how the enemies of the Arab nation and of the newly-awakened Iraq wanted to depict part of the situation. In light of this, some might say that an 8-year war is not always a proof of a people's ability to deal with life. In general, the principle is true, and in its negative sense, it applies to Iran, whose officials based their policy on negating facts, obstructing sound thinking, giving free rein to evil instincts, and closing the door in the face modernization, and preventing it in such a way as to keep their people from knowing what is good in this world. The Iranian officials relied on treachery, aggression, and on reawakening the mindsets of the past.

In Iraq, however, with the backing of the Arab nation, we relied on the Arab way of awakening, which is a responsible and comprehensive outlook on life. We also relied on making an enlightened contribution to the Arab nation now and in the future; on the awareness of the sons of our nation and people; and on helping them open their eyes and minds to heighten their preparedness and the quality of their sacrifice with the objective of preventing the enemies of life, God, and humanitarian values from making evil gains at the expense of the Arabs' land, honor, or security—now and in the future.

To further clarify the comparison between the two conflicting parties and the great distances between them in philosophy and behavior—between Iran, on one hand, and Iraq on the other; and in order to record steadfastness and victory within this context and on the basis of the values of enlightened national and pan-Arab zeal and awakening—not on the basis of instincts and their relationship with endurance and adversity—the rebuilding of al-Faw was the decisive factor that leaves no ambiguity and explains the essential differences between the two. The new al-Faw is one of many lofty symbols. Development in al-Faw is now taking place in every field. God has pleased the Iraqis and Arabs throughout the Arab homeland. He has pleased those who rushed to rebuild it to strengthen their people and history, just as the zealous and exalted men of our Armed Forces rushed to liberate the beloved and sacred al-Faw on 17-18 April 1988.

Brothers: Nations often fall before the assaults of invaders, when armies occupy the castles and general headquarters of rulers and leaders. This was what the foreign colonialists and expansionists did to the Arab nation. They dismembered its unity and temporarily blocked its way toward development and an orderly life, causing the resources of the Arab nation to fall into the abyss of defeat and capitulation.

This happened when the Arab nation abandoned the throne of sovereignty and the spirit of awakening. Today, however, the foreigner has changed his methods. The covetous imperialists also changed their methods but not their intentions. They are now targeting the rulers' minds and consciences and the peoples' minds and energies. The imperialists occupy the minds of rulers and peoples when nations are no longer capable of undertaking disciplined, conscious acts that can achieve the needed results. A nation cannot restore its glory and cultural heritage, both tangible and abstract, except by resuming its prominent, vanguard role in the march of human construction and achievements. This is what we are determined to do, God willing, encouraged by the spirit and level of the reconstruction reached in al-Basrah and the restoration work done in al-Faw. We will proceed unhesitantly, responding to the voice of history and the call of generations, while expressing loyalty from its broadest doors and commitment in its deepest meanings to the sacrifices of our great people and our Arab nation.

Great people of Iraq, on your behalf, I sincerely thank our brother Arabs who came to Iraq to express their solidarity and love, carrying with them the feelings of love and fraternity, as well as the stones from their countries [referring to Yemeni masonry used in building the gateway to al-Faw] to use with Iraqi stones in constructing buildings in the holy land of al-Faw. This land washed away, with rivers of blood of the brave men, the invaders' footprints, declaring in the name of all Arabs that a nation that has adopted martyrdom as a means to ascend to glory need not be afraid after today. We are not worried about losing our land to the ambitions of evil invaders.

A greeting of love to all noble Arabs whose true solidarity, under various names, had the effect of the cannon and contributed to liberating al-Faw. Here is an unforgettable reminder of the great contribution of men, funds, noble writings, and true pan-Arab stands.

We extend a greeting to our brother kings and presidents who arrived, and will arrive, to participate personally in one of the most important festivals of Arabism in its modern age; a greeting to the representatives of Arab kings and presidents who came to attend the festival; a greeting of appreciation and love to every zealous Arab who has played any role in liberation and construction. May God guide the Arabs on the road of brotherhood and solidarity, which improves the state of the nation, achieves happiness, and enables it to carry out its pan-Arab and human role.

We welcome the non-Arab friends who backed Iraq's peaceful line and its struggle in defense of its sovereignty, its sanctities, and Arab security; a special greeting to those non-Arab friends who came to Baghdad to participate in our celebration on the reconstruction of beloved al-Faw.

Peace be upon you.

Arab Officials Attending Al-Faw Celebrations

Djibouti's Gouled Arrives

JN2410125289 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Djibouti President Hassan Gouled arrived in Baghdad today on a visit to Iraq to participate in our people's celebrations on the occasion of the conclusion of the campaign to rebuild al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gate of great victory. [passage omitted]

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad 24 Oct

JN2410125889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Baghdad today on a visit to Iraq to participate in our people's celebration of the conclusion of the campaign to rebuild al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gate of great victory. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Delegation Arrives

JN2410155389 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad arrived in Baghdad at noon today, heading Kuwait's delegation and representing Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah at the Iraqi people's celebrations on the occasion of completing the

rebuilding of al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gateway to great victory. [passage omitted]

Omani Representative Arrives

JN2410153589 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Thuwayni Ibn-Shihab Al Sa'id, the personal representative of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id of Oman, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon to participate in Iraq's celebrations on the occasion of the conclusion of the campaign to rebuild al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gate of great victory. [passage omitted]

Qatari Minister Arrives

JN2410155889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Ahmad Ibn-Sayf Al Thani, Qatari justice minister and representative of Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon to participate in the celebrations of the completion of the campaign to rebuild al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gateway to great victory. [passage omitted]

Moroccan Prince Arrives

JN2410181289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1726 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA) — Prince Sidi Mohamed al-Hassan II, Moroccan crown prince and representative of His Majesty King Hassan II of the Moroccan Kingdom, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon to participate in the celebrations of rebuilding al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and gateway to great victory. [passage omitted]

Algerian Delegation Arrives

JN2410180989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1728 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA) — Algerian People's National Assembly Speaker Rabih Bitat, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid's representative, and his delegation arrived in Baghdad this afternoon to attend Iraq's celebrations marking the completion of the rebuilding of al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gateway to great victory.

In a statement to INA, Rabih Bitat stated that we are greatly honored to represent President Chadli Bendjedid at the celebrations of rebuilding al-Faw.

He added: In view of the fraternal relations between President Saddam Husayn and President Chadli Bendjedid and the good relations between the two fraternal countries, Iraq and Algeria, our participation comes to develop and promote these relations. [passage omitted]

Mauritanian President Arrives

JN2410183689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA) — Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit to Iraq. During the visit he will participate in our people's celebrations of the campaign to rebuild al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and gateway to great victory. [passage omitted]

Sudanese President Arrives

JN2410185689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1744 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA) — Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation in the Sudanese Republic, arrived in Baghdad today on a visit to our country to participate in our people's celebrations of having completed the campaign to rebuild al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gateway to great victory. [passage omitted]

Bahraini Minister Arrives

JN2410191989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA) — Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah's representative, Bahraini Prime Minister Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, arrived in Baghdad this evening. He is heading a delegation to attend the celebrations of Iraq's having completed the campaign to rebuild al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gateway to great victory. [passage omitted]

Saudi Defense Minister Arrives

JN2410204889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpt] His Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, Saudi minister of defense and aviation, second deputy prime minister, and representative of King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz—Saudi Arabian monarch and custodian of the two holy mosques—arrived in Baghdad this evening. He was heading a delegation to attend the celebrations of the Iraqi people on having completed building al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and gateway to great victory. [passage omitted]

Tunisia's Karoui Arrives

JN2410203689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui arrived in Baghdad this evening accompanied by a delegation. He will represent Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to the Iraqi people's

celebrations of rebuilding al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gateway to the great victory. [passage omitted]

PDRY Official Arrives

JN2510072689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2145 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA)—Mahdi 'Abdallah Sa'id, Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee member, Supreme People's Council Presidium, and representative of Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], arrived in Baghdad today to participate in the Iraqi people's celebrations in rebuilding al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gateway to great victory. [passage omitted]

Saddam Visits Arab Leaders

JN2410185289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1748 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA) — President Saddam Husayn this evening visited the State of Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat at his place of residence.

Yasir 'Arafat presented his excellency with a gift—an Arab sword—as an expression of the strong Arab will and unyielding determination.

His excellency this evening also visited Djibouti President Hassan Gouled at his place of residence.

The meeting was attended by Mundhir Ibrahim al-Shawi, minister of higher education and scientific research and head of the honor mission accompanying the guest president.

This evening, he also visited Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. The meeting was attended by Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of labor and social affairs and head of the honor mission accompanying the guest president.

His excellency also visited this evening Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation in the Sudanese Republic.

The meeting was attended by Arshad al-Zibari, minister of state and head of the honor mission accompanying the guest president.

President Saddam Husayn was accompanied on his visits to his brothers the Arab leaders by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim and Industry and Military Industrialization Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan.

Saddam Receives Saudi Minister

JN2510112889 Baghdad INA in English 1045 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 25, INA—President Saddam Husayn today received Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-Aziz, Saudi second deputy premier and minister of defence and aviation.

During the audience, Prince Sultan conveyed to his excellency greetings and congratulations of King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-Aziz of Saudi Arabia on completing the construction of the southern Iraqi town of al-Faw. He also expressed feelings of happiness and joy over this accomplishment which is considered a pride not only for Iraq but the entire Arab nation.

Prince Sultan presented to his excellency a gift of a machinegun produced by the Saudi factories.

The audience was attended by Mr Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization, and the Saudi and Iraqi ambassadors in Baghdad and Riyadh.

Senegalese Chief of Staff Departs After Visit

JN1910103889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA)—Senegalese Chief of Staff General Mamadou Mansour Seck and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad this morning at the conclusion of a visit of several days to Iraq.

He had conveyed an oral message to President Saddam Husayn from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf on ties between the two friendly countries.

Baker Plan To Be Accepted After 'Modifications'

TA2410135489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that Israel will accept the Baker plan after the modifications requested by Israel are agreed to.

Shamir said that Foreign Minister Arens' letter to Baker should be seen as part of the clarifications and discussions currently being held regarding the possibility of holding a meeting of Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Cairo.

During a tour of northern Israel, Shamir said that there is no crisis between Israel and the United States, nor is there a state of political siege. The prime minister said that the Inner Cabinet would have to make a decision regarding the Baker plan when the time came. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reported Shamir's remarks.

Arens Comments on Baker Plan, U.S. Contacts

TA2510060789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in Brussels by Arye Golan; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Golan] Minister Arens, during your Brussels visit you continue to be involved in furthering the peace initiative. Would it be correct to say that you informed Baker that Israel accepts his five points in principle?

[Arens] No, we cannot say that. We have always accepted the principles on which his proposed draft version is based because they are the principles of the Israeli Government's peace initiative, but we insist that the formulation be such so as not to contradict in any way or appear to contradict the Israeli Government's peace initiative.

[Golan] How can such a formulation be reached?

[Arens] We are working on it, and I hope we will achieve it.

[Golan] You know that the U.S. State Department spokeswoman said last night that the reply you sent to Baker is not a final affirmative answer, and added that there is nothing new in your response.

[Arens] I cannot tell you that we already have a final draft. Had it been possible to say that, I suppose she would have confirmed it. We are, however, working on it.

[Golan] Do you believe that this draft will be achieved before the prime minister's arrival in Washington?

[Arens] I cannot predict anything, but I hope so.

[Golan] Minister Arens, you spoke again with James Baker, your U.S. counterpart. Can you tell us whether there have been any developments? Are Israel and the United States growing closer in the exchange of those formulations, in their positions? Is the gap being closed?

[Arens] Look, at this moment I can tell you only that we are working hard on it on both sides of the ocean, and I hope we will reach an agreement.

[Golan] Are you satisfied with your Brussels visit?

[Arens] Yes, I am very happy with it. We convened all the Israeli ambassadors to the EC as part of our preparations to deal with that organization, which has become an economic power, perhaps the greatest market in the world today. There are political aspects to the EC, too, and there are those who view it as a political power. It is very important for Israel to be properly prepared to deal with this market, to exploit the large market developing here, and to establish the best possible political relations. [passage omitted]

Talks With U.S. Entering 'Sensitive Stage'

TA2410164689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Telephone interview with Ambassador to Washington Moshe Arad by Gay Zohar and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Good evening, sir.

[Arad] Peace.

[Zohar] We are trying to paint an up-to-date political picture. It might be easier for you being in Washington to tell us how tense Israeli-U.S. relations are at present.

[Arad] I would say that at present we are at a sensitive stage in the diplomatic negotiations with the United States in an attempt to reach an agreed-upon formula on the five-point document presented by the secretary of state. The message sent by Foreign Minister Arens to the secretary of state can, in my view, explain the Israeli position and its readiness to reach an understanding with the United States on ways to advance the joint aim of making progress in the peace process.

[Zohar] Do you think the message will lead to a change, even if only slight, in Baker's message?

[Arad] I believe, first of all, there was a great deal of exaggerated talk in Israel about a rift or crisis with the United States. In the negotiating process, one should take into account that you have diplomatic negotiations—which are quiet and behind the scenes—but in our era these are accompanied by public pressures and media reports, some of which identify their sources and some which do not. Some of the things made public here in the United States do not compliment us, and it seems that we are facing not only a diplomatic struggle, but also an information campaign. Both of these negotiating aspects—the public and the private—go hand in hand,

and we have to fight this battle and not a diplomatic campaign against Baker. I hope the secretary of state will respond to the request for clarifications within the coming days. I am not prepared to forecast its contents.

[Mardor] Mr Arad, do you feel any change in the U.S. Administration's policy toward Israel? Is the friendship still unconditional?

[Arad] I believe relations with the United States are expressed in many fields; for example, in strategic cooperation. I believe the administration's efforts in the political field, especially in advancing Israel's political initiative of 15 May, should be acknowledged and appreciated. We have reached a certain stage in which there are gaps between our positions, and we are now trying to bridge those gaps.

[Zohar] There were also gaps in the past. The question is how far they would be prepared to apply pressure on Israel to get it to modify its positions.

[Arad] I believe we can try various phrases to bridge the existing gaps. I do not personally feel any pressures here in Washington. When things are published which allegedly come from circles close to the secretary of state or the administration, I do not want to pretend that they just cropped up or that they are not aimed at exerting public pressures on Israel. I would, however, like to distinguish between the attempt to influence public opinion as each side tries to further its interests and positions, and our efforts to defend our positions as we believe in them.

[Mardor] To what extent are the embassy in Washington and the ambassador involved in the political negotiations? How much is it being done over the ambassador's head?

[Arad] In the past few weeks, we have witnessed a new type of diplomacy, telephone diplomacy. I cannot say that the embassy was a full partner in that process. We might see a change in that system in the coming weeks.

Abu-Rahmah Calls For 'Serious U.S. Involvement'

TA2410174589 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 23 Oct 89 p 3

[Interview with Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, head of the Gaza Bar Association, by unidentified correspondent in Gaza; date not given]

[Excerpt] AL-NAHAR: How do you see the political moves in the region?

Abu-Rahmah: The Israeli Government still persists in rejecting any initiative that is put forward. It does not see any plan in the arena except Shamir's plan for holding elections. All U.S. efforts have failed to gain Shamir's agreement. Consequently, the political situation is currently at a stalemate. There is talk that after Shamir's visit to Washington things will begin moving, but political efforts cannot gain momentum without serious U.S. involvement. Other countries of the world must exert efforts to support the peace process. So far the efforts of the countries of the world have been limited. The Palestinians put forward a peace initiative. This is a great opportunity represented by the decisions of the Palestine National Council in November 1988. Since then, the Palestinians have been awaiting a reply from the Israeli side, which still adheres to the policy of "no's," impeding any progress in the peace process.

Indeed, there is a great opportunity for establishing peace after the appearance of Palestinian moderation which was absent for 41 years. Most countries of the world have become convinced of this moderation and of the new spirit, with the exception of Israel, which rejects the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the right of their representation by the PLO. Ultimately, Israel rejects any right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state. Anyone who wants peace must deal with the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and should not bother to search for other representatives.

AL-NAHAR: If this is your view, what should Arab diplomacy and the PLO leadership do?

Abu-Rahmah: What is required of Palestinian and Arab diplomacy is to adhere to the Palestinian peace initiative and continue to gain support for it by all available means.

AL-NAHAR: It seems that through its contacts, proposals, and dialogue with the PLO, U.S. policy in the region is heading toward a dead end as a result of its total support for Israel. What is your comment on this?

Abu-Rahmah: The U.S. position has not undergone any fundamental changes, despite the changes in the Palestinian position. Continued absolute support for the Israeli position will not help in achieving a settlement, notwithstanding the fact that there have been indications from President Bush rejecting the continuation of Israeli occupation. As Baker has said: Israel should abandon its dream of a greater Israel. The dialogue with the United States is still at a slow pace. I believe it needs time because U.S. dialogues in the past, whether with China or Vietnam, were slow despite the fact that the United States had a supreme interest in recognizing the PRC and ending the Vietnam war. Dialogue between the United States and the Palestinians began amid difficult conditions and will bear fruit one day.

AL-NAHAR: On the one hand Washington is continuing its dialogue with the PLO, and on the other it uses its veto against any resolution that condemns Israel's policy in the occupied territories. How do you interpret this?

Abu-Rahmah: This matter falls within the framework of total support for Israel and the fact that no fundamental change has occurred in the U.S. position. The beginning of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue does not signify any change in the U.S. position. [passage omitted]

U.S. Urged To Concede Baker's Plan 'Failure'

TA2410144289 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic
22 Oct 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Admission of Failure Is Necessary"]

[Text] Some press reports from Washington indicate that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is about to concede the failure of his five-point initiative on the Middle East. The cause of this admission of failure is the U.S. Administration's "disappointment" at the convulsive Israeli positions for advancing the peace process, as well as the official Palestinian rejection of this plan, which is more a prescription for tension in the region than a peace initiative.

These reports about Baker's abandonment of his initiative come at a time when Joseph Sisco, assistant secretary of state in the Nixon era, has said that the Bush administration is deeply disappointed in Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's rigid positions toward the peace process in the region. The effect of these positions is the current stalemate in the region, which is likely to lead to new stages of tension and wars that will affect world peace.

And at the same time that the U.S. Administration is showing its disappointment over Shamir's policies, it is eager to give free assurances that it is not thinking of exerting any pressure on Israel's leaders to force them to consent to anything that is inconsistent with their wishes. The U.S. Administration also insists on saying that it is holding continuing contacts with the parties concerned to advance the peace process.

Anyone following the series of statements made by U.S. officials these days can sense the contradiction in positions. A feeling of "disappointment" requires one to act and punish the side that caused this disappointment. But rewarding this side with assurances that are met with more rigidness is something that poses baffling questions about the U.S. position and places it in a position nearer to Shamir's intransigent policies.

The long experience with consecutive U.S. Administrations indicates that we must proceed with the utmost caution and vigilance with regard to U.S. efforts aimed at spreading illusions by presenting plans and programs which are identical to the ideas and plans of Israel's leaders.

Perhaps a feeling of "disappointment" in the positions of Israel's leaders requires U.S. officials to reassess their policies, which overlook all of Israel's wrong deeds and which cause even the United States' closest friends to be "disappointed."

Admitting the failure of immature plans aimed at establishing peace is necessary. This admission requires one to return to the pattern of the international peace conference for establishing peace. This has been put forward by international legitimacy and is the best practical option for establishing peace in the region.

Washington's Options in Peace Process Reviewed

TA2410153489 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
22 Oct 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Washington's Options"]

[Text] In a message to his Egyptian counterpart Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker affirmed that the United States is still committed to its political initiative. At the same time, he called on the Arab parties concerned to persuade the PLO not to reject the five American points.

Undoubtedly, the U.S. Administration is well aware that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has rejected the Arab, Palestinian, and European initiatives, as well as the Egyptian and American points. He has declared that he is ready to confront any side, including the United States, if he is asked to approve the principle of land for peace; that is, Israel's withdrawal from the Arab lands it occupied in 1967.

In the face of this reality, the options which Washington possesses are represented, first, in exerting pressure on Israel, and second, in announcing principles which concern the peace-making procedure in the region, according to the dictates of international legitimacy and the inclinations of world diplomacy, which maintain that a political settlement must be based on the principle of land for peace and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

There is also a third option: confrontation with the PLO and the concoction of crises in order to depict the PLO as the party impeding the peace efforts. The fourth option is to abandon the efforts that Washington is exerting and to declare that the U.S. Administration's involvement in the peace process will only take place after the regional sides agree on a plan that will pave the way for launching the peace process.

As to the first option, naturally U.S. President George Bush announced that there is no U.S. intention of pressuring Israel or forcing it to accept anything not to its liking. As to the second option, it has become clear, nine months after Bush's assumption of the Presidency, that there is no real possibility for this option.

Excluding these two options leaves the decisionmakers in Washington the option of confronting the PLO and simultaneously threatening to freeze all U.S. efforts if the Palestinian leadership does not consent to Washington's wishes. We believe that resorting to these two options will eliminate all chances for peace, while realpolitik necessitates that the U.S. Administration opt for the first and second options because they constitute the key to movement in the region.

Rabin Discusses Peace Process, Syrian Sukhois

TA2410180289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that within 1 month Israel will be forced to resolve all the problems that have arisen regarding the peace initiative.

[Begin recording] [Silberman] [Passage omitted] Speaking on the peace process, Rabin said that we will reach the bridge within 1 month and then we will cross it.

[Rabin] We feel that under current conditions there is a possibility of furthering the government's peace initiative. And when we reach the bridge, and this will happen in approximately 1 month or a bit less, we will have to examine things thoroughly.

[Silberman] And regarding the Sukhoi planes that Syria is about to receive, Rabin said that we are not surprised.

[Rabin] We are not surprised by the supply of this plane to Syria. We know it has already been delivered to two Arab countries, and I imagine that the supply of Soviet weaponry will continue. We have an adequate response to the Sukhoi planes.

[Silberman] That is all from Ya'aqov Qeynan and Nati Silberman from the broadcasting van in Nahariyya. [end recording]

Pilot Tells ICRC He Defected on 'Own Volition'

TA2410205789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Muhammad Basim 'Adil, the Syrian MiG-23 pilot who defected to Israel, met with representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] last week. The pilot met the ICRC representative in Israel at the latter's request. 'Adil told the ICRC official he came to Israel of his own volition and has no special demands or complaints regarding Israel.

Our military affairs correspondent 'Amos Har'el reports that no further meetings between ICRC personnel and the pilot are planned at this stage.

Government Defeats Six No-Confidence Motions

TA2410212889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] The government is still standing. It survived the six no-confidence motions submitted by the opposition factions. Here is the breakdown of the votes as reported by our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen: 13 Knesset Members [MK's] voted in favor of the no-confidence motions; 34 MK's voted against them, or, in other words, supported the government; six MK's abstained.

As for the Alignment, six members of the faction supported the government, while the others were either not present in the Knesset plenum or preferred not to participate in the vote.

Peres Meets Rabin; Slated To Leave Hospital

TA2410204789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin visited Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, who is hospitalized in Ha'emeq Hospital in 'Afula. Peres was also visited today by Ministers Bar-Lev and Ya'aqobi and Rabbi Menahem Porush [Agudat Yisra'el Knesset member]. The hospital reported that Minister Peres will be discharged at the end of the week.

Milo Named Acting Labor, Social Affairs Minister

TA2410111689 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Oct 89 p 3

[Report by Yoram Bar]

[Excerpt] Roni Milo, ecology and environment protection minister, has given an affirmative reply to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's request to assume the duties of acting labor and social affairs minister as of yesterday. Milo will act on Shamir's behalf in all issues concerning the ministry, but Shamir will officially retain the portfolio.

Milo has announced that the portfolio will remain in his hands until Agudat Yisra'el appoints a candidate to replace him. [passage omitted]

Statistics Indicate 'Positive' Economic Trend

TA2310111489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Oct 89 pp 1, 5

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] Signs that the government's economic policies are finally paying off were apparent in economic figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics, which showed that the government had been able to encourage exports at the expense of private consumption and its own domestic defence spending.

Economic observers said yesterday that the figures mean that much awaited structural changes in the economy finally took place in the first half of the year. The positive trend is evidently continuing.

The national accounts figures showed that while domestic demand fell in January-June, triggering recession in the local market, resources were being diverted into the business sector, mainly exports, tourism and construction.

National accounts figures refer to the Gross Domestic Product [GDP] and its components.

After months of bleak statistics, and coupled with the marked improvement in the balance of payments in recent months, the national accounts numbers should restore smiles in the Treasury and the Bank of Israel.

Previously released figures had showed that the country registered a $60 million surplus in its balance of payments current account in January-June, compared to a deficit of $500 million in the same period in 1988. At the same time the net foreign debt shrank to its lowest level since 1982, some $17 billion.

While the improvement in exports was already a known development, the bureau's figures showed that the government had been successful in bringing down its expenditures in the first half of the year. One of the most important and surprising developments was that despite the uprising in the territories, domestic military expenditure fell by 4 percent in the first six months of 1989.

At the same time civilian public consumption remained stable. These two factors together produced a 2 percent drop in the domestic expenditure of the public sector.

The country's GDP grew in the first six months of 1989 by only 1 percent, which translates into a 2 percent annual rate of growth. The bureau said the level of the GDP was similiar to that of the first half of 1988, though the GDP dropped by 1 percent in the second half of last year.

The bureau's figures showed, however, that the business sector GDP grew by 2 percent in the first six months of the year, or 4 percent in annual terms, after falling by 1 percent in the last half of 1988. The bureau said the growth in the business sector reflected growth in the construction and in the trade and services sector. The rise in the output of the services sector was linked to a rise in tourism.

Industrial output dropped by 3 percent in the first half of the year, but this was caused by a marked fall in domestic demand. Industrial exports rose in the first six months of 1989 by 11 percent.

The figures showed that overall exports of goods and services rose in the first half of 1989 by 6 percent. This happened while private consumption dropped by about 2 percent. Taking into account the population increase, the drop in consumption spending translated into a fall of 3 percent in standards of living.

Golan Druze Leave for Studies, Visits to Syria

TA2510093189 Tel Aviv 'Al HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Oct 89 p 20

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[Excerpt] For the first time since Israeli law was applied to the Golan Heights, 15 Druze students from Golan Heights villages will leave for studies in Syria.

Last week most of those who applied for studies in Syria received a reply from the Damascus authorities allowing them to begin their studies in the current school year. Four of the applicants were rejected for reasons that have not yet been made clear.

The positive Syrian reply came as a surprise to the Golan students because in the past few weeks rumors have increased that the Syrians objected to the list presented, which naturally was approved by the Israeli authorities.

Yesterday a group of some 50 Druze from Golan villages left to visit their relatives in Syria. Another group is due to leave next week. [passage omitted]

Human Rights Report Called 'Biased, Unbalanced'

TA2510092089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Oct 89 p 2

[Report by David Horovitz]

[Excerpt] The Justice Ministry yesterday denounced a new Amnesty International report that highlights "severe" and "wide-ranging" human rights abuses in the territories. The ministry described Amnesty's overall treatment of Israel as "biased, unbalanced and lacking in objectivity."

In its annual report, officially being published today, Amnesty renewed its call for a full judicial inquiry into all deaths at the hands of Israeli forces, into the apparent government encouragement of beatings and into the seemingly deliberate misuse of tear gas against Palestinians.

Among the allegations of grave human rights abuses made by Amnesty was the charge that, since the start of the intifadah, numerous Palestinians had been shot dead "even though they appeared not to have been involved in any violent activities."

The independent human rights group's report, covering unlawful killings, extrajudicial executions and other abuses in 133 countries worldwide, devoted over six columns to "Israel and the Occupied Territories"—more space than for Syria, Iran, Iraq or any other Middle East or North African country.

Tamar Golan, director of the Justice Ministry's Human Rights and International Relations Department, claimed Amnesty had taken advantage of Israel's open and democratic society to compile a report that "ignores the circumstances" dictating policy in the territories and "makes no mention of the enormous steps taken to bring to justice" those who abuse government policy.

While declining to comment on the specific charges in the report until she had examined it more closely, Golan asserted that Amnesty's representatives, during their research here, spent days talking with Palestinians in the territories, but came to meetings with government officials only "to pay lip service," without apparently taking seriously the explanations of events provided by officials.

Despite her differences of opinion with Amnesty, she stressed, her department would continue to investigate the group's allegations and would maintain a full dialogue with its representatives.

Amnesty's report, covering the 1988 calendar year, catalogues the arrests of more than 25,000 Palestinians, the reported deaths of nine while in Israeli hands, and the "many incidents" of shootings where soldiers were thought to have "deliberately used excessive force." [passage omitted]

Statistics on Palestinian Fatalities Reported

TA2510085189 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 25 Oct 89 p 5

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 23 October, the Israel Defense Forces spokesman reported 513 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. The number includes only fatalities from soldiers' gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's calculations, the number of fatalities is 645.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, report 784 Palestinian fatalities, according to the following breakdown:
—568 fatalities from soldiers' and settlers' gunfire;
—82 fatalities from asphyxiation;
—53 fatalities from beatings and electrocution;
—81 fatalities from other causes.

'Sharp Rise' Noted in Deaths of Masked Men

TA2210121389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Report by Shlomo Berger]

[Text] In early September, the army declared a new policy in dealing with the intifadah. It was going after 700 masked men believed to be the hard-core activists directing the uprising. New orders were issued enabling soldiers to open fire on any masked man who refused orders to halt.

Since then, there has been a sharp rise in the number of masked activists killed in the territories. One of the principal tasks of the soldiers now is to lie in wait for masked gangs, especially at night, and to seize them when they pass by. Security sources say the army has achieved some success, and the youths are roaming the streets less freely than before.

The sources also say that the gangs are facing growing opposition within the Palestinian community, an assessment which has been confirmed by many residents of the territories. In Nabulus, for example, residents speak of two groups, the Black Panthers and the Red Eagles, who have imposed a reign of terror on the city. The gangs have ignored appeals and leaflets, even by Yasir 'Arafat, to stop killing their fellow Arabs. In fact, the murders have continued throughout Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and many have been marked by extreme brutality. Over 125 Arabs have been killed by other Arabs since the beginning of the uprising.

Security sources say some families who have been victimized have carried out acts of revenge on the masked groups. The sources say parents, and sometimes even students, are resisting attempts by activists to force pupils out of the classrooms to demonstrate. In several instances, the masked youths were beaten and driven away from the schools.

Violence, Curfews Reported in Territories

12 Hurt in 17 Oct Incidents

TA1810142589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Oct 89 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In clashes yesterday in the West Bank, 12 persons were reported wounded. In a clash in Bethlehem, a soldier was slightly injured by a rock and two Palestinians were wounded by gunfire, military sources said. In other incidents, an 18-year-old was critically wounded in the chest at Si'ir, a 16-year-old seriously wounded in the head at Turmus 'Ayya, north of Rammallah, and a seven-year-old boy shot and wounded in both legs at the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus, Palestinians said.

Clashes in the Gaza Strip yesterday left seven Palestinians wounded, including a six-year-old girl from Dayr al-Balah, according to Gaza hospital records. Military sources said one person suffered moderate injuries and that the Strip was generally calm. The al-Shati' refugee camp was under curfew for a second day.

The Gaza military court this week sentenced three Jabalyah teenagers convicted of throwing petrol bombs to prison terms considered by Gaza sources to be unusually long. Sa'ir al-Kurd, 18, was jailed for 15 years, Hasan Nawfal, 18, for 12 years, and Jihad Ghunaym, 19, for eight years. The homes of the three were demolished a month ago.

Curfew Lifted at Al-Shati'

TA1810195189 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Excerpts] A masked resident of the Balatah refugee camp was wounded today by security forces gunfire.

In Qalqilyah, the homes of three local residents were demolished and sealed. The residents had belonged to a squad whose members threw Molotov cocktails and started fires. The houses were demolished and sealed after the families' appeals to the High Court were rejected. [passage omitted]

A riot followed the lifting of the curfew this morning at the al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. The camp had been under curfew for 5 consecutive days. Four youths were slightly injured in the riot.

18 Oct Incidents Updated

TA1910163689 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 19 Oct 89 p 6

[Report by Oren Kohen, Mikhal Qedem, and Fayiz 'Abbas]

[Excerpts] Three youths from the Ramallah District village of 'Ayn 'Arik were wounded yesterday by soldiers' gunfire during an operation. They were evacuated to al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem. Arab sources said that 15 wanted men were detained during the operation, and that the army closed down two local schools. Arrests were also made yesterday in the al-Jalazun refugee camp. [passage omitted]

Minor disturbances were registered yesterday in the Gaza Strip's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood and the Rafah and al-Shati' refugee camps, which remain under curfew. Arab sources reported five wounded.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 19 October reports that "at least three Gaza city residents were hurt yesterday as demonstrations were being dispersed." The report further states that on the night of 18 October, "a grenade was hurled an at army patrol in Khan Yunus," causing no damage or casualties.]

Boy Wounded; School Closed

TA1910200789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] A 12-year-old boy was seriously wounded today by soldiers' fire in Dayr al-Balah in the southern Gaza Strip. He was taken to Tel Hashomer Hospital. Army sources told our correspondent Victor Nahmias that the circumstances are being investigated.

A preparatory school for boys was closed today in Khan Yunus after students threw rocks at soldiers.

Arab Found Dead in Nabulus

TA2010093689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] The body of 24-year-old Tahir Ibn-Salih from Nabulus was discovered in the Nabulus casbah this morning. Local residents have told our correspondent Arye Gus that the man was kidnapped yesterday by a group of masked individuals. This morning, his body was tossed aside at the conclusion of a short procession staged in the casbah by unknown persons. The murder is assumed to have been motivated by suspicions of collaboration.

Our correspondent reports that today Nabulus has been declared a closed military zone. The curfews in Bayt Sahur and the 'Askar refugee camp remain in effect.

Riot in Detention Facility

TA2010130289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Excerpt] An Arab youth was shot and injured in Khan Yunus when he attempted to snatch a weapon from an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier. The youth was brought to al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus, and his condition was described as moderate to serious.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that over the past 24 hours, the IDF has arrested several masked youths in Gaza who had scrawled slogans on the walls of schools.

A disturbance took place this morning in the detention facility situated on Gaza beach, known as Ansar-2. The riot was started by relatives of the prisoners and other visitors. An IDF soldier was attacked during the riot. The security force stationed there dispersed the rioters and terminated all visits. Some time later a 60-year-old woman was brought to the hospital with a head injury, and the people accompanying her said she was wounded during the dispersal of the riot. [passage omitted]

Suspected Collaborators Beaten

TA2010172889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Two residents were beaten by masked people at the al-Burayj refugee camp last night. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that one of the residents died on the way to the hospital. The condition of the other one is defined as grave. Gaza residents said that this is apparently an action by the strike forces against residents suspected of collaboration with Israel.

'Collaboration' Suspects Slain

TA2010194389 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Two residents of the territories were murdered on suspicion of collaboration with the Israeli authorities. The body of a 24-year-old Arab youth was discovered in the casbah in Nabulus this morning, and four masked people murdered a 41-year-old Arab resident with an axe at Dayr al-Balah in the Gaza Strip, during the Friday prayer in a local mosque. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 20 October reports that "a clash took place between an Israel Defense Forces unit and masked people in al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza this evening. One of the assailants was critically wounded and evacuated to a hospital within the Green Line boundaries. Another was captured and detained."]

Gazan Youth Dies of Wounds

TA2110152189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Nabil Sulayman Hajjaj, 18, of the al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza, died at Tel Hashomer Hospital

this morning. He was wounded yesterday in a clash between IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and a group of masked youths.

A general strike was staged in the territories today, in accordance with the call of the Unified National Command of the Uprising. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

Soldier, Policeman Injured

TA2110183889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] A soldier and a policeman were injured in stoning incidents in the territories over the past 24 hours. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a border policeman was slightly injured in Qalqilyah. The car in which he was riding was stoned, causing it to run into an electricity pylon. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was also slightly injured by a stone in Khan Yunus. He was treated at the hospital and released to his unit.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown a short while ago at the roof of a Jewish House near Herod's Gate in East Jerusalem. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the bottle smashed and caught fire, but that there were no casualties or damage. Police and Border Police forces are now searching the area.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1800 GMT on 21 October adds that "in East Jerusalem, another car has been torched, this time in 'Isawiyah. The Ford Taurus belonged to a resident of the village and was almost completely burned out."]

Update on 20-21 Oct Incidents

TA2210132889

[Editorial Report] Reporting on incidents in the territories over the weekend of 20 and 21 October, Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 22 October, in a page 1 report by Eytan Rabin and Yizhar Be'er, states: "Two youths were shot dead by the army, and a suspected collaborator was killed in the Gaza Strip over the weekend; 15 Gaza Strip residents were wounded, including 2 children. Palestinian sources in the West Bank reported six persons wounded by gunfire and beatings."

The report goes on to state that "a leaflet distributed in Bayt Sahur on 21 October by the local popular committees calls on the residents 'to stand firm in the struggle against the demand for taxes.' The residents are urged to prepare for the winter by stockpiling food, and to ensure independent supplies by raising poultry and other livestock and by growing vegetables."

The paper quotes Palestinian sources as saying that "in the wake of extensive arrests by the army, which left behind locals with injuries from beatings, riots occurred in the Rafah neighborhoods of Brazil and Tall al-Sultan."

Still in HA'ARETZ, Eytan Rabin reports on page 2 that "two Dutch journalists touring the Rafah area were detained on 21 October by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers." Rabin says that the reporters "were released after a 5-hour interrogation."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 22 October, in a page 5 report by Dani Tzidqoni, Yoram Levi, and territories correspondents, reports: "In the wake of disturbances and a general strike in the Gaza Strip, the authorities issued closure orders against the two mosques in Bani Suhaylah and Khan Yunus. The total number of mosques closed by the security forces in the Gaza Strip now stands at six."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 22 October, in a page 8 report from Umm al-Fahm by Marda Dunsky, states: "Several hundred residents of this Arab town gathered Friday to protest the continued occupation of the territories, in a demonstration organized by the local committee to channel aid from Israeli Arabs to Palestinians in the West Bank. Committee chairman Hashim Mahamid told the crowd in Wadi 'Ara town that elections in the West Bank and Gaza to choose Palestinian representatives for peace negotiations were superfluous. 'They have already voted—with stones,' he said, 'and their choice is the PLO.'"

IDF Probes Youth's Death

TA2210182689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] An 18-year-old Arab youth from Nabulus died in al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem this evening. He was wounded in the Ra's al-'Ayn neighborhood in Nabulus last night.

Military sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that last night rocks and cinder blocks were thrown at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol. One of the soldiers fired a single bullet at the stone throwers. The soldiers, however, did not notice anyone being hurt. The IDF is examining a possible connection between this event and the report of the death of the Nabulus youth.

Our correspondent further reports that the IDF today detained 15 wanted youths in the Dhannabah neighborhood of Tulkarm.

Villagers Clash With IDF

TA2210202589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] In the village of Bal'a near Tulkarm, dozens of local residents attacked an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit this evening with rocks and stones, putting it in mortal danger. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the soldiers were forced to shoot to save themselves. They later detained four wanted men for interrogation.

After the soldiers left, local residents reported that a 16-year-old girl was wounded and died when transferred

to a Tulkarm hospital. Two more wounded men from the village were brought to the hospital this evening.

Gaza Man Beaten by Soldiers

TA2210204789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Two firebombs were thrown this evening and afternoon at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrols in two separate locations in Khan Yunus. No damage was caused and no one was hurt.

This afternoon a Gaza resident was hospitalized after having been beaten by soldiers and slightly injured. Official military sources reported that during routine activity by IDF soldiers, a local child was asked to erase slogans. The Gaza resident intervened and, after arguing with the soldiers, he slapped one of them in the face. The soldiers beat him up and he was taken to a hospital. A Civil Administration representative visited the man in the hospital and promised that the incident will be examined and treated properly.

Update on Oct 22 Incidents

TA2310140289

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 23 October in a report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela' on page 8 reports that "At the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus, seven people were reported wounded when clashes broke out yesterday after a curfew was lifted. Palestinians reported that the most seriously wounded was a tailor, 'Abdul Rahman al-Masri, 42, who was opening his shop when troops opened fire at stone-throwers. Al-Masri was wounded in the chest.

"In Gaza, military sources reported relative calm yesterday, except for scattered disturbances. A commercial strike was called in Khan Yunus.

"Palestinian sources, however, reported four Palestinians slightly wounded, including an 8-year-old boy, who was sent home after being treated in al-Shifa Hospital. Military sources did not have reports on injuries."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 23 October in a pool report on page 7 states that "'Abd-al-Rahim Qadi, age 12, was shot in the right hip, and 22-year-old Hamad Sitan was shot in the thigh during clashes between IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops and local residents in the old city of Nabulus yesterday. The two youths were hospitalized in al-Ittihad Hospital."

The IDF sealed the entrances to two schools in Nabulus with large boulders, and announced the closure of the UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] school in the al-Duhayshah refugee camp after stones were thrown from inside it.

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 23 October in a report by David Regev, Roni Shaqed, Hayim Broida, and Tzvi Singer on page 2 adds that "the security forces yesterday lifted the curfew from the Brazil neighborhood in Gaza. Commercial strikes were upheld in Gaza and the Khan Yunus refugee camp."

The report adds that "a Border Police patrol captured three Arab youths in Jerusalem yesterday evening. They were found to be in possession of firebombs ready for use."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 23 October reports that "two more Israeli cars were torched last night in East Jerusalem."

Strike Called in West Bank

TA2310121389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] In Nabulus and Tulkarm, a general strike was called today to mourn the deaths of two youths yesterday. A curfew was placed on the Balatah refugee camp in Nabulus.

An army spokesman said that during disturbances at two schools, soldiers used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse pupils throwing stones. A local hospital reports that a teacher and a pupil were treated for wounds sustained in the incident.

Youth Killed Near Tulkarm

TA2310172389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] An Arab youth was killed and another was wounded during IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activity near the Tulkarm refugee camp along the Tulkarm-Nabulus road. A senior officer is investigating the circumstances of the incident.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that serious disturbances broke out in the Tulkarm refugee camp after the incident. The IDF imposed a curfew on the camp.

SLA Positions Attacked by 'Terrorist' Squad

TA2210121889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] In south Lebanon, terrorists carried out two attacks on positions of the South Lebanese Army [SLA]. No one was hurt. The attack began when a terrorist squad opened up automatic and RPG fire at an SLA position in the central sector of the security zone. When SLA reinforcements arrived, the terrorists detonated a large bomb. Later, the SLA shelled terrorist positions northeast of the security zone.

King Interviewed on Peace Process, Elections

JN2110125889 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Oct 89 pp 1, 17

["Text" of interview with King Husayn broadcast by BBC on 20 Oct]

[Text] Question: Does Your Majesty believe that the U.S. Government can bring the Egyptian, Palestinian, and Israeli viewpoints closer with regard to the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue now that the PLO and Israel have rejected U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's recent proposals?

Answer: The United States and the U.S. secretary of state should work to convince Israel to change its intransigent position. The Arab position is sound, and the most important thing is the PLO's position.

Question: Has Your Majesty tried, or have you thought that the PLO should have accepted the points presented by President Husni Mubarak? [sentence as published]

Answer: President Mubarak himself told me more than once, giving me the impression that he presented these points after discussing them with the PLO, that the PLO's position was a good one, although there were question, and remarks. However, the Egyptian president has always said that the decision is for the PLO to make. President Mubarak tried to help as much as he could to remove the difficulties and prepare for initiating a dialogue among the major and basic parties to the conflict to prepare for the international conference, about which we are all talking.

Question: Your Majesty, some say that the critical point obstructing the peace process and eliciting the Israeli rejection is the PLO's insistence on establishing an independent state. If it is impossible to achieve this objective, do you believe that you can talk with the PLO to change this position and begin to call for a more remote objective; that is, a confederation? If the PLO calls for the more remote objective, which is the confederation, and abandons the independent state, this means in the long run that Israel should exchange land for peace. What is your opinion?

Answer: Israel should exchange land for peace; that is the basis for the discussions that have, and are, taking place. And, this is the basis of Security Council Resolutions Nos 224 and 338. The basic principle of Resolution 242 is the unacceptability of occupying others' land through war and keeping it.

The Palestine question can only be resolved through a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and the two parties' agreement on the desired solution. Then, the Arab nation will bless and support what the PLO accepts.

Regarding this idea of a confederation, the PLO often has presented this idea, which it is trying to achieve in light of its distinguished and special relationship with Jordan. However, a confederation can only be established between two independent states or entities. We give the PLO what it wants, because it is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. We always stand on its side with all our potentials and capabilities. We will not ask or take the initiative in presenting any idea. But, we are ready to discuss with the PLO any opinion it views in the future.

Question: If it is impossible to establish a Palestinian state and the PLO returns to the 1985 agreement between Jordan and the PLO, would you accept that, or would you seek authorization from an Arab summit to play this role again?

Answer: We will not negotiate, in any way, on the Palestine question in the place of the PLO. The Palestinian side should exercise its right to have its say; this has been a Palestinian as well as an Arab demand for some time. The Palestinian side should play its role and have its say on the future of the Palestine question and Palestinian rights on the national Palestinian soil. We support and back it with all our potentials and capabilities. We are the closest people to Palestine, the Palestine question, and the PLO. But, the role belongs to the PLO.

Question: It has been said that the elections in Jordan next month are intended, among other things, to consolidate the Jordanian decision to disengage the West Bank from Jordan and to reaffirm the independent identity of Jordan. How can you reconcile this with the presence of a high percentage of Jordanians of Palestinian origin in Jordan?

Answer: On the basis that Jordan is for the Arab nation in every sense of the word; and that basis is a pan-Arab basis. Therefore, all Jordanians, who have opted to become Jordanians, have the same rights and duties. We will not allow any distinctions whatsoever between one Jordanian and another. We live in one community with which we are affiliated, and we build and work for our nation's glory and well-being in the future.

Question: Your Majesty King Husayn, what is your view of Jordan in the post-elections period with regard to the expected democratic climate and the expression of opinion through democratic institutions, or, let us say, what are known as parties? Can we expect the return of parties banned in Jordan?

Answer: There is positive discussion and presentation of the idea of what is known as the national charter; that is, intellectual movements in the future are to be founded on the principles of respect for the Constitution on the one hand, and on acceptance of the limits of the Jordanian national charter on the other. These limits must take into consideration the pan-Arab dimension in terms of the movements' positions within the Arab movement in the Arab homeland, the inherited objectives of the older generations, and the honorable and sound aspirations of the Arab individual within his greater homeland

for the future. Within this framework, God willing, political movements and parties will be established in the coming period.

In terms of the elections, there are in fact restrictions through which the government can exercise its right to act with regard to the candidates and the rules, based on the decisions of the parliament banning some from running in the elections for ideological reasons. My approach has been that the restrictions should be removed and should not be exercised in these elections. Thus, the elections are free. I am betting on the Jordanian citizen's awareness at this point to elect whom he sees fit to represent him in the new house.

Question: What will be the position of the authorities in Jordan if a large number of party members, without naming them, or those of Islamic inclinations are elected? In other words, if they become a majority in the new house, what will be your position?

Answer: I am against politicizing religion. Let us talk frankly and say that religion must not be a means to rule, power, or any other similar goal. With regard to the state, it is an Islamic state; and, in this country, we live as one community, Muslims and Christians. We do not relinquish our national unity in any way. It is natural to elect Muslims to the house; and it is also natural to elect Christians to the house as defined in the same Constitution. There is no room for showmanship in the issue of religion or for entering into these dark alleys, none whatsoever.

Question: There are other political trends in Jordan. Let us say that the voters elect people of different ideologies, whether from the right or the left. Will you accept the results of the elections?

Answer: We will see whom the Jordanian citizens elect. Once again, I say that I am betting on the citizen's awareness to elect the best person to represent him in the coming period; that is, the period of rebuilding and acting within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab group. Everybody will have a chance; the Jordanian citizen will choose; and I am counting on the citizen's awareness.

Crown Prince Hasan Receives Pakistani General

JN2110180189 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received at the Hashemite Royal Court this afternoon General Imtiaz Warraich, who is heading the Pakistani military delegation currently visiting Jordan.

His royal highness briefed General Warraich on the global economic and political developments, and particularly those of impact on the Arab and Islamic worlds.

His royal highness also stressed the need for promoting economic cooperation among the Middle Eastern countries through encouraging the setting up of regional groupings.

The regent said that such groupings would make Middle Eastern countries strong and effective in their dealings with other regional groupings in other parts of the world.

Information Minister Welcomes Al-Ta'if Accord

JN2410134689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Lebanon, this chronic and thorny issue, is entering a new phase of optimism and positive steps. The train of dialogue is gathering speed, and peace there appears to be a logical alternative to war and destruction. Following the al-Ta'if agreement, old loopholes in the crisis were closed. This agreement, therefore, enjoys Lebanese, Arab, and international approval. Out of its undeniable concern about fraternal Lebanon and its eagerness to enable Lebanon to reach the shore of safety, Jordan welcomes the al-Ta'if agreement. The welcome came from Culture and Information Minister Nasuh al-Majali.

[Begin Al-Majali recording] Jordan welcomes the parliamentary agreement and the approval of the accord document on Lebanon. We believe that reaching this agreement through the Arab mediation represented in the tripartite committee, the intensive efforts made by fraternal Saudi Arabia, and the positive response which came from all parties, comprises a sound beginning for dealing with the difficult situation in Lebanon. Jordan believes that all subjects under discussion will find an appropriate climate for a solution. What is important is that all parties should cooperate to guarantee Lebanon's sovereignty over its territories and stress the need to achieve the unity of the Lebanese people and territory. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Period for Contesting Nominations Ends 23 Oct

JN2410120289 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] Amman—PETRA—The period set for contesting candidates who nominated themselves for the parliamentary elections, and whose names were officially declared by the governors as candidates in the various electoral districts, ended yesterday without any contestation being filed against any of the candidates. Thus, the final number of candidates is 652 out of 662. Seven nominees were rejected for legal reasons and 3 withdrew.

'Awn Holds News Conference on Al-Ta'if Talks

NC2310092489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2130 GMT 22 Oct 89

[News conference held by Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn with unidentified reporters in Beirut; in progress—live]

[Text] ['Awn] I would like to tell the Lebanese people and the outside world about what is taking place in al-Ta'if. You know that we committed ourselves not to broach this issue, particularly with the media, to give the deputies in al-Ta'if an opportunity to reach an agreement. However, we always have drawn attention to the basic principles which should be respected if the al-Ta'if agreement is to represent the will of the Lebanese people and consequently realize their aspirations.

You know that we always have backed the Arab initiative. We always have said yes, yes, yes to the Arabs. We never have said no. They came up with a document condemning Syria. They held Syria responsible for the impasse. They produced a second document and said: Come, let us discuss it; it is not a paper sent down from heaven. We said yes. However, it transpired that it was sent down from heaven because what was true at the beginning of the month was no longer true at the end of the month. We always have dealt positively with the issue of the fraternal Arab initiative. We expected the adoption of one principle only. We said: Do everything; carry out the reforms. Despite the fact that we had a wider and more comprehensive reform plan, we did not oppose the reforms. We told them: Do whatever you want, honorable deputies. We will not deal with this issue. This is not because it does not concern us, but because it is an issue for the Lebanese. Do whatever you want.

However, I am concerned about one national issue, which will be a subject of disagreement. This is the question of sovereignty. Nevertheless, we found out that sovereignty had been diminished. This prompted Raymond Iddih to say tonight: We were under the Syrian mandate, and we have come to be under Syrian colonization. This is the situation we have reached.

Anyone who believes or tries to make the people believe that he has scored a political victory by reducing the number of deputies from 128 to 108 must excuse us when we say that this is not the subject of discussion. Who told him that 128 deputies are not better than 108 or that 200 deputies are not better than 99? The number of deputies is a victory for no one. They tried to present in a positive light an agreement which they all rejected during the meeting here. We will remind the honorable deputies of the understanding we reached and what they agreed on before they left for al-Ta'if. Extensive consultations were held, and all agreed to accept the security paper—you all remember this—and discuss the political paper, because it was necessary to give peace a chance. We gave peace a chance. Our stand in this respect is clear, despite the injustice in some of the security clauses. We realized from the sixth article that the honorable deputies have a role in preparing this peace.

In this they went too far, overstepping their authority, the constitutional government, and even the sixth article which we had approved. The sixth article stipulates that deputies meet in an agreed place to draw up a concept of sovereignty and discuss it and study a national reconciliation and reform paper. They went too far, forgetting that it is not in their power to conclude an agreement between two countries. The issue of sovereignty is not the concern of deputies. They have the power only to approve the principle of withdrawal from Lebanon. Only the government has the power to discuss the plan, its timing, and its implementation. They have their power as officials and as deputies. However, none of them has the power to conclude an agreement, and no one [words indistinct]. We reminded them several times that they were only parliamentarians taking part in a meeting and that they did not represent the Chamber of Deputies.

We reminded them several times of the longstanding democratic traditions according to which we would later hold a referendum [words indistinct] even if they were elected and were acting during their natural term of representation, which is the first 4 years. They entered their 5th year without elections through a process of self-perpetuation, and still they are acting in such a way as to say that no one has any power over them. I am versed in Arabic and my Arabic is good; but I do not know that much [word indistinct]. Another one says we are our own masters. Wherever he is, man has to go on learning. This is particularly true with a deputy who has the power of representation. A man who thinks that he has the power to represent others loses this power when he tells his voters that no one has any power over him. If he wants to take a personal stand, he is free to do so. However, acting as a representative, he has to represent the voters' views. We cannot allow people who represent only themselves to think that they can act freely when it comes to the homeland's destiny and rights.

The problem with this agreement as such lies in what it does for Lebanon; namely, the legalization of the crime which has been committed since 1988 and is still being committed to this day. The mandate of the Syrian deterrent forces expired on 27 July 1988. As of that date, their presence has been illegitimate. Today they are renewing the mandate for another 2 years, in addition to the time they have already spent here, ignoring the destruction of Lebanon. After 2 years, if the agreement is implemented in practice, the matter is to be left for negotiations between the Lebanese and Syrian Governments, as though there will be a Lebanese Government that can negotiate after 2 years.

They may be acting as though everyone views the matter as positive, but neither Lebanese officials nor the Lebanese people can forget their previous experience with agreements. Each line in the Cairo agreement spoke about Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. It led us to the [word indistinct] agreement and the 1975-76 war,

though it was much clearer than the present agreement. Then came the 1976 agreement on the Arab deterrent forces, which took their orders from former president Ilias Sarkis and were commanded by a Lebanese officer. You all know whether President Sarkis, God rest his soul, did or did not have the power to shell al-Ashrafiyah from Sidon, Tripoli, Beirut, and Zahlah. You all know whether he could open fire or cease fire, although the agreement had stipulated that the forces would follow his orders and be commanded by a Lebanese officer. There were Lebanese officers in the military command of these forces. That agreement was made in Riyadh, ratified in Cairo, and guaranteed by all Arab states.

The same is true of the 17 May agreement with Israel, which also was approved by the deputies. What did it do? It led us to the 1983-84 war, and we still are [words indistinct] of the 17 May agreement. All these were clearly defined agreements.

Now we come to today's agreement, which they passed or are going to pass in I do not know what capacity. This agreement does not specify the role of the Syrian troops. It says we will negotiate on the rest after the withdrawal is completed in 2 years. Who is going to guarantee that the Syrians will leave after 2 years? If we cannot get them out now, (?would this be possible) under the fait accompli and the illegitimate Syrian presence in Lebanon? Should circumstances permit, we could embark on an agreement. But to shift the center of political decisionmaking to the Syrian-occupied area and then dream about Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon.... [sentence incomplete as heard] It is good to make the first move in a chess game, but you have to know what the next step will be; otherwise, you will be checkmated.

Some certainly will say the Shiites and the Druze are against it and that they will thwart it at a later (?stage). Well, who told you that the proposed reforms aim to give rights to the Shiites, the Druze, or the Sunnis? The whole purpose of the reforms that have been introduced is to transfer the center of political decisionmaking from the free eastern areas that are defending all of Lebanon to an occupied area, so that once under Syrian hegemony, everything will be surrendered later on. This is the second chess move that the brother Arabs could not see because they are dealing with Syria in goodwill. However, our experience does not allow us to take this innocence, this childish innocence, for granted after our homes have been demolished, our sons killed, and our people displaced, whether in Canada, Australia, or here at home, so that no one knows any longer who is where. All this is the result of the Syrian presence. Now this Syrian presence is to be redeployed for 2 years prior to its departure from Lebanon. If there is goodwill to restore Lebanon's sovereignty and independence, why should there be such ambiguity in the provisions? Why this play on words? The principle is very clear and cannot be subject to any dispute. They should have said that the withdrawal is certain, but a timetable for it will be discussed. This timetable must be definite and precise. It must not be worded to make it sound as though we are paying cash for something that will be delivered in installments.

We made concessions to the Arabs on everything. Whatever the brother Arabs asked us to do we said OK, OK all along so an agreement could be reached on the principle of withdrawal, the true withdrawal. We got nothing in the end. Certainly we appreciate their efforts, for they all sincerely sought to help us. Unfortunately, however, the agreement does not suit us as far as regaining our sovereignty is concerned. I believe it is a prelude to the loss of what is left of our sovereignty. We thank them for their efforts and we will not change our relations, friendship, or amity with them. Absolutely not. However, their ball hit the Syrian wall so it rebounded back to us. We thank them, but this is the bitter reality.

As a result, I have told you of my own view on the matter. There is a 180-degree difference between my view and that of the deputies in al-Ta'if. We are heading in opposite directions. I am facing a decision that I will not make unless the people so decide. I pledged to refer each and every matter to the people, to the people's will, for the defense of the people. This is what I am counting on. I am a citizen, a soldier, and a prime minister. I would be comitting a crime three times over were I to accept this agreement. In the meantime, I cannot steer the ship of state if the people do not want it steered in the direction opposite to the agreement.

My decision depends on you. If you support me, I will walk at the front and not in the rear. I will face everything because I am certain of victory. I am certain of the faithful, of their faith in their rights, their God, and their people. If you say no, I will refuse to be the leader because I will not commit a threefold crime. Let others steer you to victory. As far as I am concerned, this agreement can go to hell.

All sects of the people are called upon to express their opinion. I do not want any play on words, anyone saying: This is useful, or that is not useful, or we barely managed to obtain this. They are intimidating you and [word indistinct] you. If there is one person who is afraid here, you should know that there are 10 who are afraid somewhere else.

They say they took the deputies to al-Ta'if to free them from any pressure and enable them to act freely. Regrettably, however, we hear private radios or some parties, which are supposed to refute rumors, saying that the deputies must choose between the gun and signing the accord without any preconditions. From what pressures have the deputies been freed? What have they freed them from? They say they freed the deputies from pressures here to place them under the threat of gun there or under the threat of the people.

We also reject the U.S. support for the agreement, a support that was announced before we ourselves received the agreement's provisions and before the agreement was endorsed or even disclosed. This is a kind

of pressure and intimidation similar to its stand when [Syrian President] al-Asad concluded an agreement with [U.S. Assistant Secretary of State] Murphy. The United States told us: Either do this or chaos will prevail. Let the U.S. support go back to Washington. Washington is the one leading the plot. My stand has not changed and is becoming firmer day after day.

Therefore, we want to finish with this issue. The Lebanese people have the final say. I am ready, and you know how prepared I am not to retreat one inch from the people's supreme interest. I believe that this agreement will lead to our further disintegration, the capitulation of what remains of Lebanon, and the eviction of the remaining Lebanese. The road to salvation is (?linked) to the road of rejection, but this rejection should be coupled with the people's acceptance of this rejection and its course. This is my message addressed to all the Lebanese today: Either they follow me, and I am ready; or they follow the deputies in al-Ta'if, and I wish them success. I am ready now for your questions.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] I am the alternative. They have resorted to various means to reach this agreement. They used the Suq al-Gharb front to arrive at where they are now, but they failed. They failed to achieve what they wanted with the bombardment, voting, and political pressure. They succeeded through twisted ways and through the division of our internal ranks. The deputies' stand is the best evidence.

[Reporter] What I meant is would the alternative lead to a conflagration and the resumption of war in a more violent manner?

['Awn] This is not the alternative. Who wants to fight?

[Reporter] What is the alternative then?

['Awn] The alternative is to wait for better circumstances. Under what circumstances do you want me [word indistinct] the war? The Syrians are here.

[Reporter] But if there is no political alternative and the war alternative does not exist, what then can we call it?

['Awn] Sometimes, you are asked to choose between death and death [words indistinct] What can you choose? Do you have means other than resistance? They want you to choose between your life and your death, not between defending your life or defending some place. After they sign, the deputies will no longer have any support from the forces who are hostile to the Syrian occupation [word indistinct] of 1976, 1973, and 1969, as well as the 17 May agreement. You have nothing left. What promises have they given the deputies? What are their guarantees? What is the role of the Syrian forces in the agreement? Can you tell me what is their role?

[Reporter] Can we say, General 'Awn, that ties between you and the Lebanese deputies have been severed once and for all?

['Awn] [Words indistinct] not all the deputies. Some deputies have agreed, and some have not. Why do you speak of the deputies in such general terms? Look, we should not turn this into a personal quarrel. This is a national issue. As individuals [words indistinct] I do not want to mention names. This is a matter of national choice, not a personal preference.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, when you agreed in principle to the meeting in al-Ta'if (?as a way of achieving reconciliation), was it expected to produce results different from those achieved?

['Awn] My friend, we have engaged in consultations and held a meeting that lasted for 3 and ½ hours. In that meeting, we agreed that the al-Ta'if discussion would take place according to certain priorities. These are: [Syrian] withdrawal, reforms, and the rebuilding of the state institutions. The deputies should have respected this agreement and this order of priorities. Now, they have followed the opposite order. The deputies, therefore, have failed to honor the agreement we made in previous consultations concerning the al-Ta'if meeting. I am not concerned for myself [words indistinct]. This is an issue of destiny. Also, one should not go back on an agreement with an official or government before some further consultations. We asked for a time out [preceding two words in English] so that someone would come back and tell us what is going on, tell us that nothing will be accomplished.

According to the sixth clause in the paper which I approved, the understanding was that the deputies would go to prepare and discuss a paper and then return home and elaborate on its details. What happened is that they worked out a final form of agreement in al-Ta'if. They did not prepare a document. They accepted the one given to them. Lakhdar Ibrahimi himself said this document did not come from heaven and was open to discussion. Once the deputies were in al-Ta'if, it was as if the document had come straight from heaven; it became God-given. Did you notice what Deputy Nasir al-Ma'luf, this man of great eloquence and legal knowledge, had to say? We saw him on television and have video recordings. Was there agreement on political and security matters? No. They went to al-Ta'if to sign an agreement. They have not (?lost) anything, not in anything that took place between them and us. This is what happened. I cannot give my consent to anything that they [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, what is your explanation of the presence of Mr David Satterfield and Mr Rafiq al-Hariri in al-Ta'if?

['Awn] The same people, the Americans and al-Hariri, were in on the agreement—nothing more, nothing less. The same people showed up in Damascus on 17 September. The situation has not changed. It is just that this time the delegation came back wearing Arab dress and headgear.

[Reporter] Does this mean that the Arab initiative is over as of tonight?

['Awn] If they want, they will have to go ahead without me. It is as simple as that. What I demand is Syrian withdrawal and a definition of the Syrian role in Lebanon. Matters are very ambiguous as the deputies left them. The deputies have defined neither the task at hand nor the venue for further exchanges, or the timetable. These were basic tasks. The agreement was that the Syrians should withdraw to such and such (?altitude).

[Reporter] I have two questions. The first is this: Does your rejection of the agreement mean that the fighting will be renewed? The second is: If the people give you their support, how are you going to deal with the deputies?

['Awn] As for the first question, why should there be a renewal of the fighting? It is not necessary that the fighting be renewed. Our rights are well-established. We can press them through diplomatic and (?Arabic) channels. Conditions in the Middle East are not unchangeable. These conditions will not last forever; there will be changes. Without resorting to guns, we can stand fast and continue diplomatic consultations with friends. Our friends have been party to this problem. Syria has interests that can be affected forcing it to change its policies here. The general situation can change in the Middle East. There can be security problems as happened in our country in 1975-76. Anything can happen. As for the deputies, they are free agents. Those whom they represent will decide their future. Every deputy represents a group of people, and they should deal with them.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, it is being said that after the deputies come back, a speaker of the parliament and a president of the republic will be elected. What is your position?

['Awn] Let us wait until they come back.

[Reporter] Also, some deputies are afraid to return. Do you give guarantees that they may come back in peace?

['Awn] All the deputies and the Lebanese citizens have guarantees which they are supposed to use to maintain freedom and (?the regime). They do not have guarantees to help them decide erratically on such matters, particularly not with regard to sovereignty. Do you know the story of [Vichy government Premier] Petain and De Gaulle? This time there is more than one.

[Reporter] Do we take this as a threat to the deputies?

['Awn] My brother, it is not a threat. [passage indistinct] You are twisting words. There is a law and not a threat. Do not say threat. We are on the air.

[Reporter] We are only asking.

['Awn] We are on the air. I do not want questions implying ill will.

[Reporter] We have no ill will, we are only asking a question.

['Awn] I did not say that. There are laws to be applied. There is a Constitution, there is a text. We are applying the texts of the Constitution to anyone who gives up sovereignty and independence. We have judges and lawyers. We do not take illegal actions. You have to watch out for tricky questions.

[Reporter] You are right, but there are no tricky questions.

['Awn] I will answer every single question. I told you I will leave the matter to those they represent. I told you there is an issue of sovereignty stipulated by the Constitution, and you called it a threat. It is not a threat against deputies. A criminal in our country is referred to the judiciary to decide his case. Do you view this as a threat? This is protection of the Constitution and the laws. Do not put words into my mouth.

[Reporter] Lakhdar Ibrahimi paid you a visit today. What was the purpose of the visit? What did he tell you, and what is your view?

['Awn] He gave me the text of the agreement. I did not read the section on the amendments because we are not interested in the amendments as much as in the [words indistinct]. I read the second section on sovereignty. I found that they have changed certain words, not even expressions [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Does the agreement contain guarantees for withdrawals?

['Awn] Nothing has been changed.

[Reporter] Is there not a single guarantee?

['Awn] [Passage indistinct] what do you want? [words indistinct] Do you want anything clearer than this?

[Reporter] The Arab committee said earlier that the document was not untouchable. However, when the deputies went to al-Ta'if, it turned out that the document is more than untouchable. They said it was the most they could obtain. The Arabs will certainly continue their initiative. Having realized that they were not honest in all they said, and that the agreement contained a certain amount of playing with words, how will you handle any new Arab initiative on Lebanon?

['Awn] We will deal with them as they come along. I responded positively and gave them the opportunity right up to the last moment, even when they changed their minds. However, this matter could not be accepted, because it has gone beyond the danger point. That is why we say stop.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, if you will allow me, we can say that tonight Your Excellency renewed the wager on the homeland, its sovereignty, and destiny. We heard envoy Ibrahimi say: We will continue to realize the

dream of this people. It is understood that it is the deputies who are in al-Ta'if who will continue to realize the dream of the Lebanese people. However, these deputies have lost their power to represent the Lebanese people. Their power of representation has naturally diminished with renewal after renewal of their term. We know that this wager does not imply a personal benefit for Your Excellency. We do not want [words indistinct] we want a homeland. We do not want to go into who is saying that we will have a homeland. Every question we pose as reporters reflects rumors spreading in the Lebanese arena. What we want from Your Excellency is this—can you tell us whether Ibrahimi made this promise with the backing of the deputies who are in al-Ta'if today?

['Awn] What do you mean?

[Reporter] Ibrahimi said: We will continue to realize the dream of this people. That is what he said just now. Does he mean that he notified you of something concerning our deputies?

['Awn] It is known that there is a risk, as I have told you. We would welcome anything new. But the agreement in its present form is not reassuring.

[Reporter] This means that he is defying us because we did not accept.

['Awn] I told him that it is not reassuring and that only the Lebanese will decide on it. I will not steer the ship onto the rocks. I want to steer the ship to the sea, so that it can sail on. This is what we need.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, you say the Lebanese people will decide on the matter. How do you think they can do that formally?

['Awn] Well, there [passage indistinct] tomorrow in support of the agreement is free to do so. We could set one date for those who want to express their support for the agreement and another for those who oppose it and see who joins which. Could there be more freedom than this? We could base our decisions on this.

[Reporter] Could this agreement be tantamount to a waiver of all of al-Biqa'?

['Awn] Not only of al-Biqa', but everything, because I do not believe the agreement will be put in effect. Who is going to implement it, if the center of decisionmaking is transferred from here and the authority of the institutions paralyzed? What will happen if we return to the tune of the government of the late Prime Minister Karami when there were (?offices) in East and West Beirut? After the reforms are prepared, where would the center of decisionmaking be? In the past there was half a government when Syrians brought the al-Sana'i' grouping [reference to al-Huss cabinet] to West Beirut; now they will have full government [words indistinct] and so on and so forth. So shall we (?apply) our past experience to the present and the future? No one can act as a devil's advocate when he is directly involved and his life is at stake. If I were to ask you to hold a referendum, a secret referendum, among yourselves, how many among you would agree to accept such a solution [words indistinct]?

[Reporter] Your Excellency, will not the decision you announced tonight cause further estrangement between the free areas and the occupied areas?

['Awn] Why should it? What am I defending here? Is the other area against sovereignty or independence? If it is against sovereignty, independence, and a timetable for the Syrian withdrawal then certainly no understanding could be reached. But they are not. Who told you they are against this?

[Reporter] They are not, but they will express their opinion and this....

['Awn, interrupting] Let those who want to express their opinions or make a decision do so. Do we have to make concessions just because others want to express an opinion? I cannot extend my hand to someone who is tied to a wall. If he is tied to a wall I cannot reach out to him, or else he would grab hold of me. I would set him loose first, but I would not get stuck with him and surrender.

[Reporter] Will you start new contacts with all key figures?

['Awn] With all of them.

[Reporter] Including parliamentary figures?

['Awn] With the exception of those in al-Ta'if. The contacts will include only those who stayed behind.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, why was there no progress on the issue of withdrawal similar to that made on the reforms? What was the justification?

['Awn] I do not know.

[Reporter] Did not you receive any information on this from Arab committee envoy Ibrahimi?

['Awn] I did not ask him, because he is not responsible for this. Ibrahimi is an official appointed by the Arab committee to convey the agreement to me. I wished a deputy had come with him and told me why they reversed what had been agreed upon. I have the minutes right here in front of me. Here are the minutes of the meetings with the deputies before their departure to al-Ta'if.

We must lay down principles which give priority to withdrawal over reforms. The withdrawal must be comprehensive. The order must be first withdrawal, then reform, and then the reconstruction of institutions. This is the final [word indistinct]. If they agree on the issue of withdrawal then we will discuss other matters. They must understand that there is nothing called a reconsideration of our borders. We will not relinquish al-Biqa' or any other area in Lebanon because [words indistinct].

What would be the fate of al-Biqa', the north, and the south? What would be the fate of the remaining part of the free areas? The fate of all these areas is unknown.

[Reporter] You say that the U.S. policy is still hatching plots against Lebanon. Can we consider ourselves now in a direct confrontation with U.S. policy in Lebanon?

['Awn] Yes, although the United States says it has no policy in Lebanon.

[Reporter] How would you confront or change this policy?

['Awn] Through indefinite resistance. The Americans are (?pragmatists) [preceding word in French], and they will change. The U.S. pragmatism [word indistinct] plays against you, and at the end it supports you.

[Reporter] There is talk that there are regional and international pressures to accept the document. And Your Excellency just said that the United States is one of the states which exerted pressure. Are there any states which adopted more positive stands? What is the stand of the Vatican, for example?

['Awn] It supports us.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] I have received his statements. [Words indistinct] all the world supports us. Even the United States cannot stand against the principle of justice and law. That is why I am surprised by this change. Look what is going on in the Congress as these developments unfold. Everyone is trying to help Lebanon over the issue of withdrawals. [Words indistinct] to stand and say they are in support of Lebanon's sovereignty and independence and of the withdrawal of all troops from Lebanon and [word indistinct]. But they are doing their best now to impose their own solution. But if they fail and [words indistinct].

Do you think that a war of resistance, a war of liberation, and a war to regain a homeland took place for nothing? This is not so. We have regained our rights. We will continue to defend these rights by hook or by crook. However, those who are afraid will not be able to save the homeland. The salvation of the homeland can only be achieved by heroes and brave people, and not by those whose blood is frozen and who only are waiting for their hour to come.

[Reporter] If the people in the free areas reject the agreement reached in al-Ta'if, how do you expect Syria to react, particularly since the Americans will support this Syrian decision?

['Awn] Let them act as they choose, and I will act the way I choose. If they resort to the military option, I will defend myself militarily; if they act politically, I will defend myself politically. For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. We will reply through the media if they use this, and if they resort to the gun we will use the gun. But we will never be the ones to escalate the situation or open fire. This has been recognized around the world, and tomorrow we will tell you how the countries of the world stand. Every country of the world knows that the Syrians are not accepted in Lebanon. Past regimes tried to tell the world that the Syrians had an important role in Lebanon, but we have shown the opposite.

In view of this world stand, Syria can no longer stay here indefinitely. Our citizens in the occupied area do not accept the occupation [words indistinct] Syria cannot do whatever it likes. You must understand who you are confronting and what are his political, military, and economic circumstances.

[Reporter] Having briefed you on the outcome of the al-Ta'if meetings, did the Arab envoy promise to hold certain consultations before the closing session takes place?

['Awn] They have already held the final session and taken the vote. They came to notify me of what they agreed on. They notified me that 59 of 62 deputies have approved the agreement by raising their hands. Al-Rifa'i was absent, and Al-Khatib and 'Assaf expressed their reservations. Here are the results if you want them.

[Reporter] Can we expect further consultations to exacerbate the situation?

['Awn] What are you afraid of? On 23 September last year, they led everyone to believe that if no president were elected Lebanon would no longer exist and we would be left at the mercy of the Almighty. Thank the Almighty, we are still here discussing matters. Now they are trying to convince the people that failure to arrive at an agreement in al-Ta'if means that we are done with [words indistinct]. Nothing will happen; we have been through more difficult situations before.

[Reporter] If the deputies change their minds again, free from any kind of pressure, what would you say?

['Awn] What did you say?

[Reporter] If the deputies went back on the agreement in al-Ta'if after returning to Beirut, what would you say?

['Awn] My problem is not with the deputies. My problem is something called sovereignty, and it is a problem with Syria. It is very easy to elect 100 deputies if you want. But dealing with Syria requires a certain stand.

[Reporter] Despite all that happened in al-Ta'if, can we say that General 'Awn's concepts and principles are still winning?

['Awn] Yes, we can conclude that.

[Reporter, in English] General 'Awn [words indistinct]. Why did you reject the agreement made in al-Ta'if? And if they do agree in al-Ta'if and the mediators agree with what they have agreed on in al-Ta'if, how can you stop it being implemented?

['Awn, in English] I did not reject all the agreement of al-Ta'if. I am not concerned by the [word indistinct] of political reform. I have said and I am still saying that it is the Lebanese problem and I accept it as it is. But I refuse the part concerning the Lebanese sovereignty, because it is not respected. This agreement does not [word indistinct] anything about it. You do not know what will be the Syrian role in Lebanon, in what space and for how long. Therefore, this is rejected, as nobody can accept such an agreement on his territories. If they are frightening us by going back to shelling, it will be their problem. I will defend myself.

[Reporter, in English] What if the deputies come back today and try to ratify the agreement made in al-Ta'if?

['Awn, in English] That is a law affair, you know. It is against the Constitution. We say if they can do it or not. I think they are involved personally in the responsibility in aggressing our Constitution.

[Reporter, in English] Could Mr Ibrahimi [words indistinct] in Jeddah, and have you received any....

['Awn, interrupting, in English] I will not say. I will let him answer this question. [passage indistinct]

Reportage on Reaction to Al-Ta'if Agreement

'Hardline' Deputies Set Conditions

NC2510085989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The newspaper AL-ANWAR reports today that a group of hardline deputies consisting of George Sa'adah, Pierre Dakkash, Tariq Habshah, Jubran Tawq, Michel Sasin, and some others has insisted that four conditions be met before any view is expressed about the national accord document. According to sources close to the deputies, these conditions are:

1. That the accord remain secret until General 'Awn's approval is obtained.
2. That the number of seats in the Chamber of Deputies be 108 instead of 128 according to comprehensive parliametnary agreement.
3. That Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi come to Beirut to meet with Gen 'Awn to brief him on the accord and officially invite him to visit Saudi Arabia.
4. That final approval of the accord be linked with the requested guarantees.

'Awn Announces 'Acceptance'

NC2510083989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] In an interview with French newspaper LE FIGARO, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn announced his acceptance of all the constitutional reforms as spelled out in al-Ta'if agreement, but reiterated his rejection of the military arrangements involving the Syrian forces in Lebanon.

In the interview, Gen 'Awn denied that he was a presidential candidate, stressing that he has undertaken to guarantee the security of the deputies upon their return to Beirut where they are expected to convene to ratify the agreement. Gen 'Awn added: I will welcome them, because they still can go back on their decision as the al-Ta'if document has not yet been ratified. If the deputies can convince us and convince themselves then we will all be in agreement.

Gen 'Awn went on to say that the Lebanese deputies should have demanded the withdrawal of the Syrian forces in accordance with a specific timetable and plan. He said that the agreement's provision about redeployment is ambiguous. The agreement notes that the redeployment process will be followed by a withdrawal 2 years after the establishment of the new institutions. However, Gen 'Awn added, how long will this process take? This time is not specified, and all I want to know is how long will it be, he added.

Gen 'Awn said that the presence of the Israeli forces in southern Lebanon is a pretext used by the Syrians to postpone the withdrawal of their forces.

Demonstrators Support 'Awn

NC2410131189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] For the second consecutive day demonstrations set out toward the B'abda Palace today. Tires were burned on some streets and placards supporting General Michel 'Awn carried.

Addressing the demonstrators, Gen 'Awn said: You represent the people's will. With your arrival today you aborted the al-Ta'if accord before it was born. 'Awn stressed that he supports any internal reforms approved by the Lebanese, but asked: How can we implement reforms while we have no land, no people, and no sovereignty?

'Awn Addresses Demonstrators

NC2410144689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] In an address to demonstrators at B'abda Palace today, Prime Minister Michel 'Awn invited all deputies, including those residing outside the eastern area, to come to the free area to rectify the error and convince the Lebanese people that what they did is right. He guaranteed their protection and promised to place the official media at their disposal and allow them to hold discussions with constitutional and legal experts and with the press to prove that they have safeguarded Lebanon's sovereignty and independence.

General 'Awn described the provisions of clause four [of the national accord agreement] as obscure. He explained that he is for all types of reforms. He emphasized that the deputies are free to elect the president they want and to distribute the powers. He stressed that he will accept the

majority's decision. He asked: How can reforms be implemented when we have no land, people, or sovereignty?

'Thousands' Support 'Awn

NC2410142089 Paris AFP in English 1357 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, Oct 24 (AFP)—Tens of thousands of people converged on the headquarters of Christian leader Michel 'Awn Tuesday to show support for his rejection of an Arab peace plan for Lebanon, correspondents said.

The mainly student crowd—20,000 according to witnesses, 50,000 according to organizers—brandished portraits of General 'Awn, waved flags and denounced Lebanese MPs who approved the plan by an overwhelming margin on Sunday.

Christian-held areas north and east of here were meanwhile paralyzed by a general strike, with shops, schools, banks and government offices remaining closed.

The rally and the strike were to demonstrate backing for Gen. 'Awn's dismissal of the Arab proposals on Sunday, just hours after their approval by parliament meeting in Saudi Arabia.

But the plan has now drawn the backing of the Maronite Patriarch, leader of the largest Christian community in Lebanon, as well as U.S. President George Bush and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

Gen. 'Awn has attacked Lebanese deputies, Christians and Moslems alike, for endorsing a scheme that he said would legitimize Syria's "criminal" military presence in Lebanon."

But he vowed to resign his post as prime minister in a contested all-Christian cabinet if it were shown that his constituents backed the MPs.

Addressing demonstrators at the B'abda Presidential Palace Tuesday, Gen. 'Awn again described the accord "as a capitulation to Syria," whose 35,000 troops he has vowed to oust from Lebanon.

He assured deputies they could safely return to Lebanon, apparently in a bid to tone down a statement Monday—also during a demonstration of high school students—that the role of the MPs was "finished" here and that they should consider staying in Saudi Arabia.

The Lebanese parliament, which began meeting at the Saudi resort of al-Ta'if on September 30 to consider the Arab proposals, was meanwhile holding a closing session in the city of Jeddah. [passage omitted]

Christian Leaders Support Accord

LD2510133989 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1315 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Beirut, 25 Oct (KUNA)—The Lebanese Christian leadership dealt a painful blow today to the head of the Lebanese transitional military government and announced its support for the al-Ta'if accord and for the stand of the Falangist party leader, George Sa'adah, which is supportive of the accord.

A statement issued this afternoon following a meeting of the Lebanese Front, which includes the majority of the Christian parties and organizations in Lebanon, said that the conferees appreciate the stand of the front's leader, Deputy Sa'adah.

The statement calls on the leaders who oppose the accord to reconsider their position, alluding in this to the attitude of the head of the military government, General Michel 'Awn, who has categorically rejected the accord.

Islamic Jihad: Accord 'Treachery'

NC2410221089 Paris AFP in English 2200 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Beirut, Oct 24 (AFP)—The underground Islamic Jihad organisation which claims to hold two American hostages dismissed Tuesday an Arab peace plan for Lebanon as "unforgivable treachery" by Lebanese deputies.

The statement was made in a four-page typewritten statement to an Arabic-language daily as a Lebanese parliamentary session in Saudi Arabia, which endorsed political reforms boosting the Moslem community's powers, wound up.

It also coincided with the sixth anniversary of the bombings of U.S. Marine and French military positions in Beirut in which some 300 people were killed.

Black-and-white pictures of the flattened positions that were targets of suicide car-bomb attacks in October 1983 were attached to the statement that was hand-delivered to the offices of the independent AL-NAHAR newspaper in mostly Moslem west Beirut.

The pro-Iranian Moslem fundamentalist group denounced power-sharing along religious lines in Lebanon, where the highest office, the presidency, is by tradition held by a Christian Maronite.

"There won't be a solution without the eradication of the rotten confessional system," said the Jihad.

The Islamic Jihad also reiterated that it would release U.S. journalist Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland, a professor at the American University of Beirut, once its demands were satisfied.

The Jihad had in past statements called for the release of 17 activists jailed in Kuwait in connection with bomb

explosions against U.S., French and Kuwaiti installations in 1983, as a precondition to releasing the U.S. hostages.

Mr. Anderson, abducted in mostly Moslem west Beirut in March 1985, and Mr. Sutherland, who was seized from the same region two months later, are among nine Americans who are believed to be held in Lebanon.

Elsewhere in the text, the Islamic Jihad, or holy war, praised the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, Iran's former spiritual guide, and spoke of the "deplorable" situation that emerged in the Moslem world after his death in June.

Hizballah Condemns 'Conspiracy'

NC2510090589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Hizballah has stated that the only aim of the statements and documents issued by the Arab committees is to consolidate the corrupt and agent regime and affirm the Maronites' privileges at the expense of the Muslims and all oppressed people. Hizballah added that the pro-U.S. and pro-Israel Arabs find in political Maronism benefits and support for their regimes. Therefore, not a trace of any kind of reform or rectification could be observed in the al- Ta'if document. Instead, it grants regional legitimacy, with international support, to capricious racist privileges which the Maronites themselves were embarassed to defend before al-Ta'if.

In a statement issued yesterday, Hizballah said the conspiracy in al-Ta'if has reached a treacherous height that transcends the oppression of Muslims and the relinquishment of the rights of the oppressed. It seeks to bolster Israel's presence in Lebanon and the region and, consequently, to stifle the Islamic resistance in Lebanon and quell the blessed intifadah in occupied Palestine.

Therefore, Hizballah calls on the brothers within the Islamic national front to hold an urgent meeting to draw up the measures and stands that can preserve Lebanon's identity and chart the future for its struggling citizens, with a view to liberating Lebanon, Jerusalem, and the entire holy land.

IUM's Sha'ban Rejects Accord

NC2510080489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement [IUM], has stated: We reject everything that was discussed at the al-Ta'if meeting, which was convened by the United States. The conferees represent only themselves, because we consider their parliament defunct, as half of its members have died and we hope God relieves us of the presence of the other half.

Speaking at a meeting with Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi in Beirut yesterday, Shaykh Sha'ban said the Lebeanese crisis has entered a difficult and critical stage, and some parties are trying to find American solutions to it by means of al-Ta'if meeting. He added: Right from the start, we saw this meeting as a conspiracy at which the representatives of the sects met to consecrate sectariansim in Lebanon and keep Maronism at the peak of the Lebanese pyramid of power.

His eminence called on the oppressed people in Lebanon to confront the conspiracy, because the war should not end up consecrating sectarianism, Maronizing the presidency, and establishing Israel's hegemony through the Maronites. We refuse to accept our country's becoming another Palestine, he added.

Resistance Front Attacks Lahd Position

NC2410071889 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] A resistance front group used rockets and machineguns to attack an agent position near Hasbayya yesterday. The resistance fighters succeeded in destroying the position, putting an armored personnel carrier out of commission, and killing or wounding a number of agents. Shortly thereafter a group of agents raked the scene of operation and nearby areas in Mimas.

Meanwhile, our correspondent in the eastern sector has reported that a landmine planted by resistance fighters went off as an agent vehicle was passing near the town of al-'Ayshiyah. The blast entirely destroyed the vehicle, killing or wounding all aboard.

'Awn Forces Reportedly Violate Cease-Fire

NC2410133189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] The al-Yarzah army ['Awn forces] gangs today continued violating the cease-fire. Ra's al-Jabal came under mortar and heavy-caliber machinegun fire before 1000 today. Just before 1200, the Kayfun road came under machinegun fire from the positions of the al-Yarzah gangs in al-Saraya. Kayfun also came under machinegun fire from al-Qal'ah. A little before 1300, the al-Yarzah gangs directed mortar fire at Shimlan from their positions in Suq al-Gharb.

Shelling of Mountain Reported

NC2410183989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] 'Awn's gangs have caused tension along the mountain combat lines by shelling the Ra's al-Jabal line several times. The last shelling took place at 1800 hours today, when they shelled [placename indistinct].

Further on Violation

NC2410205189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Four enemy gunboats appeared off al-Jiyah coast at approximately 2100 today. The boats tried to

approach the coast but were forced to retreat after nationalist positions dealt with them appropriately.

We were informed that a [word indistinct] reconnaissance aircraft flew over the area at the same time.

In another development, 'Awn gangs continued to violate the cease-fire agreement by shelling Nationalist positions on Hill 888 with mortars shortly before 2100.

Mountain Road Reportedly Under 'Sniper Fire'

NC2510105489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The Kayfun Road [in the mountain] came under concentrated sniper fire from positions held by al-Yarzah ['Awn forces] army troops this morning. One citizen was wounded. This incident took place when the two Algerian officers were inspecting the Suq al-Gharb front.

In another development, fighting broke out on the Beirut airport road this morning, leaving one person injured.

Amal, Hizballah Gunmen Clash in Beirut

NC2510111489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] According to preliminary reports, one gunman was killed and two others wounded in a violent clash between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in the vicinity of al-Sahil hospital along the airport road this morning. Traffic was diverted to the al-Awza'i road as a result.

In another development, Syrian soldiers manning a roadblock in Ba'labakk killed citizen Ahmad al-Sulaymi and wounded citizen 'Abd-al-Qadir Ghazzawi when the soldiers fired on the car in which the two were traveling. The two were taken to a hospital.

Ministers Review Developments in Lebanon

JN2410161289 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus, 24 Oct (SANA)—The Council of Ministers held a session under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi this afternoon and made an overall political review of the latest developments in the Arab arena in general, and the Lebanese arena in particular. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' then discussed the meetings of the members of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies in al-Ta'if. The meetings were reviewed within the framework of the Casablanca resolutions on finding a political solution to the Lebanese crisis, as well as the Arab tripartite committee's steps to implement these resolutions and transform them into a political formula acceptable to the Lebanese. Such a formula will lead to a national accord for the Lebanese on the basis of political reforms in order to achieve justice and equality.

Al-Shar' also stressed that Syria, which maintains distinguished, brotherly relations with fraternal Lebanon, and which shouldered burdens and made great sacrifices in Lebanon to end its ordeal, will continue its constructive pan-Arab role in reinforcing the national accord and supporting Lebanon's struggle to liberate its southern part from Israeli occupation.

Al-Ahmar Calls Meetings 'Step' Toward Accord

JN2310164489 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus, 23 Oct (SANA)—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has affirmed Syria's strong support for Lebanon and willingness to help the Lebanese people end their current crisis. He said that Syria has offered and still offers help in establishing national accord, justice, and equality among the Lebanese on the basis of political reform.

During his meeting here today with Arab students studying at Damascus University, Comrade al-Ahmar said that dialogue and concord between the Lebanese in al-Ta'if represents a step forward along the road of accord despite many obstacles, foremost of which is 'Awn's stand. He affirmed that the Palestinian people's intifadah manifests the ambitions of these people toward freedom and their determination to resist the aggression out of their desire to liberate their land and assert their legitimate rights of repatriation and establishing the Palestinian state.

Comrade al-Ahmar clarified that any solution to the Arab-Zionist conflict which does not lead to the retrieval of the occupied Arab lands and the Palestinian people's rights is nothing but [word indistinct]. He affirmed that Syria stands by the intifadah and the Palestinian people in their struggle to attain their goals.

Concluding the meeting, Comrade al-Ahmar affirmed the importance of the role of youth and their duties and endeavors to realize the goals of the Arab nation. He indicated that the struggler President Hafiz al-Asad has given great attention to the role of youth because they are the creative energy for building the aspired Arab future.

Media Respond to Developments at Al-Ta'if

Paper Cited on Final Session

JN2210091989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Hopes are strong and legitimate now that there is talk of a final session for the Lebanese deputies' deliberations. This final session of deliberations, contacts, and meetings is expected to live up to the historic responsibility shouldered by the Lebanese deputies. This is because they must seize a historic opportunity, in the fullest sense of the word, to save Lebanon, extricate a national solution from the rubble of difficulties and hardships, and proceed on the bandwagon of the solution regardless of the artificial obstacles created by the isolationist clique, which has exposed its hostile face before all that is national and pan-Arab.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Supporting national accord and reforms means supporting the will to achieve a national solution and save Lebanon. Obstructionist efforts or procrastination in endorsing the formula of the redemptive solution constitutes bias in favor of the isolated minority, whose interests converge with the objectives of the partition-seeking Israeli scheme. The options are clear: Either to support reconciliation or side with obstructionist efforts. There is strong hope that the deputies will defend accord and refrain from siding with those leading the obstructionist efforts.

Commentary Hails Accord

JN2310152189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] After 23 days of continuous deliberations, the Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if have approved the national accord document by an overwhelming majority. Those who voiced reservations on the document did so because it does not completely abolish political sectarianism and because they cling more than others to Lebanon's unity, accord, Arabism, and distinguished relations with Syria. There is no doubt that the presence of the deputies in al-Ta'if, uninfluenced by 'Awn and his military clique, has helped them face up to their historic responsibility and put the interests of Lebanon and the Lebanese people above the interests of those malicious people who are linked with Israel's divisionist scheme. Immediately after the deputies endorsed the document, 'Awn announced from East Beirut his rejection of that achievement.

The deputies in al-Ta'if have expressed their appreciation for Syrian assistance in overcoming all obstacles and removing all barriers, especially since the deputies of East Beirut have found themselves in a difficult situation as a result of 'Awn's continuous threats against them. Everyone views Syria's assistance as decisive. This assistance primarily indicates Syria's loyalty to the Lebanese issue, its certain and continuous sympathy for the Lebanese people's pains and hopes, and its serious efforts to save the fraternal country from the plot of partition, destruction, and displacement.

Syria has been giving Lebanon everything over the past 14 years. It has spared no sacrifice or effort. National accord has been its top priority and strategic goal, as President leader Hafiz al-Asad has said more than once. Syria has embraced all the Lebanese without discrimination. It has not made distinctions between one Lebanese citizen and another. It also extended its hand to every Lebanese hand loyal to Lebanon's unity and Arabism. Those who tried to sow differences between the two fraternal countries have failed. Syria sypports all the Lebanese and their national accord to save the fraternal country from the whirlpool of death and destruction. There is no difficulty between Syria and Lebanon, and any outstanding difficulty can be solved in a true brotherly spirit. The Lebanese will be assured in the future that Syria is more eager than others to achieve Lebanese unity and understanding.

It is important now to convert the al-Ta'if agreement into a tangible reality and to confront the losing forces in Lebanon with the appropriate language. 'Awn and his clique have spared no effort to foil the great achievement. He announced frankly that he is in a race against the deputies and that he rejects the document categorically. The rejection of the document means one thing: The rejection of the accord. It also means a return to fighting. This is what 'Awn wants because he has put his forces on alert, according to reports from Beirut.

The Lebanese deputies' continuous effort in al-Ta'if has produced a binding document, and it will pave the way for the election of a new president in the future. Their effort will put an end to 'Awn's tampering with the Lebanese people's interests, security, and future. The Lebanese deputies have covered much important ground, and there is no alternative to continuing the process of saving Lebanon with the same sense of responsibility. This is the ambition of the Lebanese people, Syria, the Arabs, and the international community.

Bulgarian Communist Party Official Visits

Palin Arrives With Delegation

JN2310101689 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus, 23 Oct (SANA)—Comrade Velco Palin, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and Chief of the Social and National Policy Central Committee, arrived here yesterday with an accompanying delegation. He is on a visit to Syria that will last for several days.

On arrival, Comrade Palin expressed his happiness to visit Syria and meet with senior Syrian officials to further develop and enhance the existing strong relations between the two friendly countries. Palin said that Bulgaria's relations with Syria, which were established by President Hafiz al-Asad and President Todor Zhivkov, are distinguished relations on all levels and serve the peoples of both friendly countries.

Confers With Interior Minister

JN2410154789 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus, 24 Oct (SANA)—Muhammad Harbah, Syrian minister of interior affairs, received the visiting Bulgarian friendship delegation headed by Velco Palin, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, in Damascus today. The meeting was attended by the assistant interior minister and the Bulgarian charge d'affaires in Damascus.

The interior minister stressed the importance of promoting relations between the two friendly countries. He also explained that the Syrian Ministry of Interior Affairs has taken advanced steps in the various fields.

For his part, Palin voiced his country's interest in increasing cooperation with Syria and exchanging expertise and information between the two friendly countries' interior ministries.

Algerian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

JN2310143489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Sayed Ghazali left Damascus at 1030 today following a short visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus international airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry staff, the Algerian ambassador to Damascus, and the embassy staff.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Greets Hungarian Party Chief

BK2410095389 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] On behalf of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and secretary general of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], a congratulatory message has been communicated to Rezso Nyers, chairman of the Socialist Party of Hungary. The message reads: It is my pleasure to express to you on behalf of PDPA Central Committee, and on my own behalf, sincere congratulations on your election as chairman of the Socialist Party of Hungary. The PDPA is confident that under your leadership the Socialist Party of Hungary will achieve further success toward prosperity and welfare of the people of Hungary as well as peace and democracy.

Council of Ministers Discusses Food Shortages

LD2410223789 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] The administrative office of the Council of Ministers reported that a regular session of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee was held this afternoon at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers, under the chairmanship of Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers Executive Council, with the participation of a number of ministers and heads of departments.

At today's session, issues relating to the supply of basic materials to citizens, and a reduction and relative stability prices, were broadly discussed.

It was pointed out at the session that a noticeable amount of basic materials has been purchased from domestic and foreign sources by commercial, government, and cooperative enterprises, as well as by private sector, and have been supplied to meet citizens' needs.

The government's commercial and mixed enterprises have been commissioned to supply commodities needed by the people from production areas, and to sell them directly to the consumers with feasible conditions by a government, commercial, and cooperative network, at fixed government prices.

In order to further encourage national traders to import and supply basic materials, the government has considered incentive measures, including better banking services, providing credits in feasible conditions, reductions in import tax and exemption of commissions, and creating facilities in transportation by the government. However, due to the special military and political situation, and the socioeconomic structure of the country, effective measures have been taken to prevent disruption in market order and to control the prices of goods imported by the private sector.

Efforts have been made to organize a system to reduce and stabilize the prices of goods imported by the private sector, using a supply of similar goods by the government, mixed and cooperative sectors at competitive prices, creating a sound competition between private suppliers and preventing a monopoly.

It should be pointed out that due to the negative effects of the continuation of the imposed war, economic sabotage, a fluctuation in foreign currency exchange rates, an increase in prices in international markets, organizational weaknesses in government administrative organs—in particular in government commercial enterprises and cooperative enterprises in purchasing and supplying commodities—as well as the misuse of the present military and political situation of the country by some importers of basic commodities, the prices of basic commodities have gone up and the people's needs have not been satisfied, and as a reuslt the consumers have suffered.

In order to meet the people's needs from the viewpoint of foodstuffs and basic consumer goods, to reduce and relatively stabilize prices, and to utilize the potential and existing possibilities, the session approved a resolution.

This resolution allotted duties to the Ministry of Commerce, Kabul Municipality, the Afghanistan Bank, Peasantry Union of Cooperatives, and other relevant authorities.

At this session the issue of accelerating repair work on transport and tanker vehicles, making maximum use of repair centers and technical services' stations of the ministries and departments, was considered.

It was pointed out that due to the huge volume of transportation of goods via Hayratan border, and problems stemming from the bad condition of some roads, transport vehicles are developing faults. The number of faulty vehicles has gradually increased. A large number of transport and tanker vehicles of transportation enterprises are stationary due to extensive and [word indistinct] faults and full use of the facilities available in the repair centers and technical services stations is not being made.

The resolution of the Council of Ministers envisages specific measures on effective and purposeful utilization of the facilities of repair centers and technical services stations, and specific duties have been given to the relevant ministries.

At this session of the Council of Ministers, necessary decisions were made on improving the activities of government organs in Qandahar Province, on preventing an unnatural rise in the level of underground water in Afshar area of Kabul city, on purchasing bags needed by the fertilizer and power enterprises of Mazar-e Sharif, and on some other issues.

Jinnah Group Joins in National Reconciliation

BK2510095689 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] A 54-men armed group headed by Mohammad Musa, known as Jinnah, which was engaged in antistate activities in (?Badakhshan) Province recently gave up war and joined Islamic policy of national reconciliation.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that the group was warmly welcomed by the state officials and a large number of the peace-loving people of the province, describing the group's joining as an important step toward the restoration of peace, cessation of war, and the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation in that province.

In turn, the head of the group spoke on behalf of the others expressing all around readiness for the establishment of peace and security.

The group was previously functioning in the composition of the extremist group of Jamiat led by Rabbani.

Kabul Reports Mujahidin Attacks, Casualties

BK2510100589 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Carrying out their patriotic and national tasks with high spirit and combatibility, the heroic units of the Afghan forces in Khowst have inflicted devastating blows on the armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis. Quoting the source of the Armed Forces, the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that during the last 4 days, the Afghan units in Khowst were mainly fortifying their positions and strengthening their defense lines. While some of the units carried out operations in the direction of Yaqubi occupying strategic positions.

The Pakistani-backed warmongers made heavy shellings from long distances on Gardeyz city and the nearby security posts—the units serving in Yaqubi, 'Ali Sher, Jaji Meydan, and Towr Ghar directions. As a result, six servicemen of the government forces were injured and three children and a woman martyred. In retaliation, the war positions of the enemy joint forces came under heavy artillery and air strikes. As a result of which, 180 men of the enemy were out of action. Destroyed were the enemy's one reactive unit with S-42 shells, 10 [word indistinct] guns, 1 [word indistinct] heavy machinegun, 2 rocket launchers, 4 recoilless cannons, and several light weapons.

The source said that in Nangarhar, the Afghan units were stationing at the previous positions. Some of the units conducted ambushes and mopping-up operations in the direction of (Qatar Ghai), Chaparhar, and nearby areas of Samar Kheyl, capturing 1,100 cartridges of assorted machineguns, 11,200 cartridges of Kalashnikov machineguns, 50 shells of mortar, 3 boxes of explosives, and 6 boxes of empty air rocket shells of the enemy.

The criminal extremists shelled the government security outposts in Samar Kheyl, Behsud, and some parts of Jalalabad city, injuring two servicemen of the Armed Forces and killing three civilians. The retaliatory strikes of the Afghan forces made some 237 warmongers out of action and destroyed their 5 depots of arms and ammunition and several recoilless cannons.

According to another report, the enemy targetted to heavy attacks also some parts of Charikar city, Qalandar Kheyl, and (Qalah-ye Khwaja) areas, and some security posts. Four servicemen of the Armed Forces were injured and one person killed as a result. In response, the government units opened heavy artillery and air fire on enemy positions, suppressing 146 extremists, including their 3-ring leaders. Also seven fortified positions, one BM-1 unit, six rocket launchers, two weapon-loaded vehicles, and seven mortars of the warmongering extremists were destroyed.

The Afghan units are fulfilling their task with a high morale and combat preparedness.

Rebels Capture 1,500 Soldiers; Convoy Blocked

BK2410140089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1345 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 24 (AFP)—Mujahidin forces have captured 1,500 government soldiers and seized an important village after heavy fighting in eastern Afghanistan's Ghazni Province, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) said Tuesday [24 October].

The Muslim guerrillas captured Sorkh Qal'eh, some 120 kilometers (75 miles) south of the provincial capital Ghazni on Friday after nearly two months of fighting, AIP said.

More than 280 soldiers, officers and militiamen were killed in the fighting, it said. The agency put mujahidin losses at 27 killed and 94 injured.

The mujahidin, fighting to topple the Soviet-backed Kabul government, captured three tanks and a large quantity of weapons, the report said, adding that several hundred guerrillas from six different Pakistan-based Sunni Muslim resistance groups took part in the fighting.

Government bombing and missile attacks meanwhile have inflicted heavy civilian casualties in trying to protect a convoy taking supplies to the besieged city of Khowst, Western diplomats here said.

The Kabul government has relied "massively" on air bombing and ground-to-ground missile support to protect the convoy, made up of more than 200 vehicles, the sources said.

The bombardments have sparked an exodus of civilians "fleeing their villages along the route, where many homes have been destroyed," one diplomat said.

The convoy has been blocked for two weeks at Mohammad Agha, some 45 kilometers (27 miles) south of Kabul.

It is the first important government convoy to seek to break the siege of Khowst, 200 kilometers (130 miles) south of Kabul, along the highway since January 1988, the diplomats said.

Afghan rebels say they have repulsed a parallel government armoured drive some seven kilometers (four miles) east of the main relief column.

Since resistance forces were unable to take the county's third largest city, Jalalabad, after a sustained siege earlier this year, the mujahidin have focused on blocking main roads and bombarding airports to block government supply efforts.

Diplomats here said the highway linking Kabul to Jalalabad, in the eastern part of the country, has been closed to traffic since September 25 by resistance forces.

The air base at Bagram, some 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Kabul, was attacked October 19 by resistance forces who destroyed four aircraft on the ground and killed 70 soldiers, the diplomats said.

Resistance forces have also launched a major attack on the Salang Highway against a government convoy near Tashkurghan, some 65 kilometers (40 miles) east of Mazar-e Sharif, the most important city in northern Afghanistan near the Soviet border.

More than 20 vehicles were destroyed and 30 were captured in the operation, the diplomats said.

Bangladesh

Ershad Cancels Singapore Visit To Return Home

BK2410155789 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] President Ershad is returning home tonight after attending the week-long Commonwealth Heads of Government summit meeting in Kuala Lumpur. The president has canceled his planned visit to Singapore.

Security Measures Revised at Zia Airport

BK2010133989 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Security measures at the Zia International Airport in Dhaka have been tightened to ensure safe air traffic and service to the passengers.

An official handout issued in Dhaka Thursday [19 October] night said entry of members of the public and visitors has been completely banned to the concourse hall and other areas of the airport except the air passengers and on-duty officers and employees of different organizations. Permanent passes issued for entering the airport are being minimized. Such passes issued to the officers and employees of different organizations are also being canceled except those who have emergency needs.

India

Reportage, Comment on Upcoming General Elections

Rama Rao Not To Run for Lok Sabha

BK2110161689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] The Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, has said that he will not contest the coming Lok Sabha elections. He was speaking at the general body meeting of the Telugu Desam party in Hyderabad today. Mr Rama Rao declared that he will not leave the state politics.

291 Parties Register

BK2410150289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] The Election Commission has registered 291 political parties under the election symbol order. These include 8 national and 32 regional parties. Earlier, there were 59 registered parties, including 7 national and 34 regional parties. The commission had completed hearing, in regard to about 110 parties, by the 20th of this month and had approved their registration under the amended Representation of People Act.

The commission yesterday decided that all the parties whose applications were not processed would also be registered as unrecognized parties for the limited purposes of the general elections.

Gandhi To Contest 1 Constituency

BK2410161489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, filed his nomination for the Amethi parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh as the elections picked up momentum on the 2d day today. About 300 more candidates filed nomination papers today to contest the elections to the Lok Sabha and 5 state assemblies. With this, the number of contestants for next month's elections has gone up to about 400 so far.

Mr Gandhi, who is seeking reelection from Amethi for the third time, filed his papers before the returning officer in Sultanpur. [passage omitted] Soon after filing his nomination papers, Mr Gandhi told newsmen that he will contest only from Amethi.

Asked if Mrs Sonia Gandhi [Rajiv Gandhi's wife] will also contest the Lok Sabha elections, the prime minister said that she has no such intentions. Regarding the

selection of ruling party candidates, he said the central parliamentary board of the Congress-I has finalized 130 names.

Over 30 candidates filed their papers in Uttar Pradesh. In Gujarat, 19 nominations were filed in 12 parliamentary constituencies. [passage omitted]

Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, the Congress-I spokesman, Mr Anant Sharma, said that the filing of nomination by the prime minister from Amethi has brought an end to all rumors and speculations floating in this regard, as he put it.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has said that it is not merely unfortunate but a totally wrong step on the part of the Janata Dal to announce the names of its candidates for the coming elections while negotiations for seat adjustment are still on. The BJP spokesman, Mr Sikander Bukht, told newsmen in New Delhi that if negotiations on seat adjustment do not succeed, his party will fight elections on its own.

The Janata Dal spokesman, Mr Jaipal Reddy, when asked to comment by newsmen on the BJP stand on seat adjustment, claimed that his party announced its candidates for seats which it considered were its strongholds.

The National Front spokesman, Mr Dinesh Goswami, in a letter to the election commissioner today said that the ban on the use of government vehicles should equally apply to everyone.

Communists To Back Centrists

BK2510150089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1441 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 25 (AFP)—India's most powerful communist party declared Wednesday [25 October] that it would support, but not join, a centrist opposition government that may be formed after next month's parliamentary elections.

The announcement was made here by E.M.S. Namboodiripad, general secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI (M)], after releasing his party's manifesto for the polls to the Lok Sabha, the lower house of Parliament.

"We have not participated in any government in which the left has not played a dominant role," he told reporters, adding that the CPI (M)'s policy had not changed. But he added that leftist forces would be able to exert "some influence" after the polls if the opposition National Front defeated Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party and formed a government.

The centrist National Front, a combination of national and regional parties set up last year, is the main opposition alliance challenging Mr Gandhi in the hustings.

Mr Namboodiripad, 80, added that the CPI (M) had "already exerted some influence in the present situation," an obvious reference to the communists' ceaseless pressure on the front to stay away from right-wing groupings.

The CPI (M), formed in 1964 following a split in the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India, is the most powerful leftist party in India and governs two of the country's 25 states. It ruled a third state for 10 years from 1977.

The CPI (M), which is independent of Moscow and Beijing, and its leftist allies are expected to contest nearly 100 of 529 Lok Sabha constituencies in polls on November 22, 24, and 26. The Lok Sabha has 545 seats.

Asked to comment on the possible election outcome, Mr Namboodiripad said: "There is no wave for or against Rajiv Gandhi, so the whole thing is uncertain."

Before opposition MP's [members of Parliament] quit Parliament in July in protest over an arms purchase scandal, the CPI (M), with 22 MP's, was the second largest opposition group in the Lok Sabha.

Commentary Notes 'World' Interest

BK1110135189 Delhi External Service in Burmese 1115 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Station commentary "Presented by U Maw Thiri, person in charge of the Burmese language section"]

[Text] Dear 39 million pro-democracy listeners: Although the multiparty democratic general elections are scheduled to be held 6 [as heard] months from now, that is in May 1990, the world has already started to take interest in those elections. Their interest is not because they want to interfere in the internal affairs of Myanmar, but because there is a likelihood of the Myanmar people regaining the democratic rights they have lost since 1962 and also because Myanmar may once again stand tall in the eyes of the whole world as a democratic nation. There is also interest because Myanmar will once again have warm international relations with its old friends and because all those who have the interests of Myanmar at heart will be doing everything possible to help. This is why the whole country is patiently waiting for the general elections to take place in May 1990.

There are varying views among the people regarding the May 1990 elections. Some believe that the military will not hold the elections but instead will continue to run the country through its proxy political parties and organizations, as in the days of the Burma Socialist Program Party [BSPP]. Such a method, once known as the BSPP tactic, may soon be known as the democracy tactic. These people believe that this is will be done even if the election process fails to meet basic democratic norms because the government still has ample time to control the people and it will make use of that time wisely.

Another school of thought, however, holds that multiparty democratic general elections will definitely be held in May but that only those who are in favor of the military will be allowed to run. Following the elections, some improvements will be made to the current situation but administrative power will remain in the hands of the military which intends to exploit the word "democracy" to manipulate the country.

I am sure you notice one common thread shared by these two schools of thought: that is, regardless of whether the elections are held or not, people believe that the military, which has wallowed in the luxury of state power since 1962, will not step from its throne and give up administrative powers so easily.

Why do the people have so little faith despite the fact that the military has promised to hold elections in May, to allow the winning party to form a government, and to return to the barracks to perform its defense and security tasks? This is something worth looking at. Is it because of foreign interference or because the people are being instigated and agitated? Or is it because the people know about the military government very well? If neither of these statements are correct, then we must study whether the military is failing to match words with deeds.

The military has frequently said that it will hold elections in May, and that these elections will be truly fair and free. The military says that state power will be handed over to the winning political party and that it will return to the barracks to perform its security and defense tasks.

The people, however, do not believe this. This is because the military has failed to match words with deeds. For a country that is heading for democratic general elections, the people have yet to regain their democratic rights. The very fact that the people have been forbidden to criticize the military clearly shows that the latter neither accept nor respect democratic principles. It would be wrong on the part of the military to assume that they can win the confidence of the people without giving them the freedom to speak, the freedom to organize, the freedom to assemble, and the freedom to march in procession and protest.

The military has permitted the formation and registration of political parties. However, unlike their counterparts in democratic countries, these parties do not have the right to freely organize and make speeches. This, in fact, is contradictory to the very traditions of democracy. If one wants to win the trust of the people, one must provide what the people want. Only when this is done will the people show their trust.

There will always be confrontation between the military and the people if the military ignores the wishes of the people. The time is therefore ripe for the government to grant democratic rights to the people if the upcoming elections are to have any real meaning. Once democratic rights are granted, it will also be necessary for the people to bear in mind the wishes of the government for the sake of perpetuating democracy.

The party of the people's choice should win in the upcoming elections in May. Only then will the democracy in Myanmar last and will the problems that encourage confrontation between the government and the people disappear. Discipline is needed for all, including those in military uniform, and determination must be firm. Under the circumstances today, it is necessary for both the military government and the people to observe discipline and bring out the essence of democracy in the country.

May the upcoming general elections in May bring about peace, prosperity, and happiness for the pro-democracy listeners.

Army 'On Alert' in Bihar After Communal Violence

BK2510101889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0953 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 25 (AFP)—The Army was put on alert in the eastern Indian state of Bihar after widespread Hindu-Muslim violence since the weekend left at least 21 people dead, news reports said Wednesday [25 October].

An indefinite curfew also continued in the town of Bhagalpur in Bihar, where four people were killed and 38, including 18 policemen, were injured Tuesday after Hindus and Muslims fought each other, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

The news agency did not refer to the two communities by name, but "communal clashes" are used by the Indian media to refer to Hindu-Muslim violence.

At least 17 people were earlier reported killed and more than 200 houses torched and destroyed in similar violence across three other districts of Bihar Saturday and Sunday, newspapers here said.

Rioting reportedly erupted in Bhagalpur, one of Bihar's major towns, when nearly 3,000 people tried to block a religious procession of another community, sparking off pitched battles. The crowds also stoned policemen who intervened, injuring 18 of them, forcing the Bhagalpur administration to immediately clamp an indefinite curfew.

PTI did not say how the four people died in Bhagalpur, but said the state government, controlled by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party, had alerted the Army to stand by throughout Bihar. It added that a state-wide search would soon be launched to flush out arms held illegally.

Official sources were quoted as saying that Bhagalpur was calm but tense Wednesday, but many residents, whose religion was not identified, had left their homes and sought shelter in the town's railway station.

THE HINDU newspaper reported that para-military forces had been moved to Sitamarhi and Darbhanga Districts where 16 people died in Hindu-Muslim violence late Sunday. One person was killed in Gaya district a day earlier. It was not clear how the violence began.

The worst spate of killings was reported from Sitamarhi, near the Nepalese border, where 15 people were killed and several others injured after Hindus and Muslims fought each other in an unspecified number of villages. Mobs set fire to more than 200 houses in Sitamarhi, and police recovered seven burnt bodies. Police fired at mobs in Gaya and Sitamarhi, but it was not known if anyone was killed.

Some 200 people have been arrested throughout Bihar after the violence. The latest communal flare-up in Bihar follows similar clashes in the central Indian city of Indore earlier this month in which more than 20 people were killed and public and private property extensively damaged.

Some 330 people have died in Hindu-Muslim violence across India in the year to September 30. Political leaders have said that the communal cauldron in the country is on the boil. Recent communal clashes have mostly been over a disputed shrine in northern India which the Hindus, India's majority community, claim is the birthplace of their Lord Rama. Muslims, who number some 100 million in India, dispute this and say that it is the seat of a mosque built by Moghul Emperor Babar in the 16th century.

Army 'Called Out' in Bhagalpur

BK2510125489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] In Bihar, the Army has been called out in Bhagalpur to assist civil administration in maintaining law and order, following violent incidents. Shoot-at-sight orders have been issued in the town and the curfew in Bhagalpur municipal and Nathnagar areas is continuing.

According to the state home secretary, three persons were killed today in police firing taking the death toll in the disturbances to seven. The situation is now said to be under control.

Air Force Trainer Jet Crashes Into Arabian Sea

BK2410124889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1158 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 24 (AFP)—An Air Force trainer jet crashed into the sea off the west coast of India early Tuesday [24 October] killing the pilot, officials here said.

The aircraft plunged into the Arabian Sea off Gujarat State soon after taking off from a military base, an Indian Air Force spokesman said, without elaborating.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said the jet had taken off from Jamnagar town and that a search was on for the wreckage.

Rao, Delegation Return From Commonwealth Meeting

BK2410160189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the members of the Indian delegation to the meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government at Kuala Lumpur returned to New Delhi this evening. Mr Rao described the meeting as very successful.

Pakistani Sind Leader's Detention Assailed

BK2110121589 Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Oct 89 p 4

[Editorial: "G.M. Syed"]

[Text] By putting behind bars veteran Sindhi nationalist leader and protagonist of the "Jiye Sind" [Long Live Sind] movement G.M. Syed, Pakistan Premier Benazir Bhutto has displayed unwarranted harshness towards a leader who is already a legend among his people. The immediate provocation for such a step seems to be the critical remarks by the octogenarian leader about the ruling Pakistan People's Party and his alleged appeal to the Sindi people to struggle for the separation of Sind from Pakistan. Mr Syed's views on Sind and the nationality question have been known for decades. He has for long been vocally stating that "Pakistan must die if Sind is to live." It is therefore not understandable what has prompted Ms Bhutto's government to detain a leader in frail health as Mr Syed is. There is without doubt, a lot of dry tinder around in the shape of ethnic passion in Sind. Last week, during one of Mr Syed's meetings the supporters of "Jiye Sind" movement reportedly removed the Pakistani flag and hoisted the "Sindhudesh" flag. For this Ms Bhutto cannot hold Mr Syed responsible. In all likelihood, by taking such a step Ms Bhutto may have sought to appease the Army and neutralise her political opponents in Punjab, particularly the Zia loyalists. On September 21 this year, the Pakistan Premier at a function of the Sind regiment in Hyderabad expressed support for the controversial Pannu Aquil military cantonment near Sukkar. In doing so, Ms Bhutto became the first Sindhi leader of some consequence to endorse the project. It is thus clear that Ms Bhutto is willing to brave the ire of Sindhi nationalists to please the Pakistan Armed Forces. In return, the Pakistan premier expects to earn the military's good-will. Her political survival is still very much incumbent on the critical support from the United States and the military. Some reports say that Ms Bhutto's differences with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan have abated, but the contention between her and Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif shows no sign of being contained. It is in this context that Ms Bhutto's reported message to President George Bush, seeking American support against her powerful domestic enemies, has to be

viewed. Only time will show if her crack-down on Sindhi nationalists has been dictated by U.S. advice.

Iran

Khamene'i Receives Lebanon's Fadlallah

LD2410124389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, received Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, one of the great and resistant 'ulema of Lebanon. Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah presented a detailed report on the political and social situation in Lebanon and for Muslims of that country. The leader of the Islamic revolution gave the necessary guidance on the issues raised.

ABRAR Urges Respect for Majority in Lebanon

LD2310090689 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA—The morning daily ABRAR predicted Monday that the fragile ceasefire in Lebanon will be easily broken if rights of the Muslim majority in the war-torn country is not taken into account in the ongoing al-Ta'if conference.

62 Lebanese Christian and Muslim parliamentarians are in the resort city of al-Ta'if in Saudi Arabia for more than three weeks in a bid to formulate a new constitution for their homeland.

"Foreign dispatches report of a widespread optimism that al-Ta'if participants will reach a general agreement," said ABRAR. "But, the new Lebanese generation, raised amid gunfires, tanks and canons, pays little attention to the al-Ta'if meeting," it added.

"The support rendered to the Arab League in its effort to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis by the United States, the Soviet Union, China, France and Britain, has given way to speculation that the al-Ta'if meeting would at least leave the door open for future talks among various Lebanese factions," the daily's editorial said.

"The Lebanese chronic crisis will not end unless the country is ruled by the majority," concluded ABRAR.

Deterioration of Ties With Turkey Viewed

NC2010131089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Irano-Turkish Ties Cold"]

[Text] It is a matter for regret that relations between Iran and Turkey have deteriorated over the past four months and Iran does not have diplomatic representation at ambassadorial level in Ankara.

It was hoped that this would only be a temporary phase and that problems would soon be resolved. But it appears now that this downward trend in relations is gaining new dimensions as the Turkish press have begun increasing their attacks on Iran. These attacks have been such that it has gone to the extent of insulting the sanctities of the Iranian people.

In a very recent development, Hojjat ol-Eslam Saberi-Hamadani an alim [religious scholar] of an Iranian mosque in Turkey was expelled by Turkey for allegedly making statements against the executions of 16 Kuwaiti Muslims by the Saudi Arabians. For the past ten years relations between Turkey and Iran have been cordial despite ideological differences that may have existed between the Islamic Republic of Iran that emerged after the Islamic Revolution and secular Turkey. Even during the period of the 8-year-long war between Iran and Iraq, Turkey stood to benefit by cultivating good relations with both warring countries.

However, in recent years the militarist wing led by Kenan Evren, who planned the 1980 coup in Turkey, has been behind the opposition against Iran sponsored no doubt by the U.S. and Saudi Arabia and spurred on by Evren's personal antipathies towards Iran as a diehard secularist.

What is dismaying nevertheless is the fact that Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal, who is an economist, has shown a change in attitude recently. Mr. Ozal for one believed that Turkish national interests should take precedence above all else and hence he went out of his way to cultivate good relations with all around in the long-term Turkish interests. So why this turnaround that causes displeasure to the leadership and people in Tehran?

A reason perhaps for this change in the Turkish premier's attitude may be seen in the fact that he intends putting himself forward as a candidate for the Turkish presidency in elections slated for October 20 [as published] this year. So he has no option but to go along with the Turkish press and endorse the propaganda that it puts out.

All in all, however, although it may be of advantage to Mr. Ozal in the short term to follow the popular line set by the Turkish press it will not be beneficial to him in the long term. He is in all likelihood making a political mistake—one that is surprising for a mature statesman—to put personal and party interests above the larger interests of his nation.

'Anti-Islamic' Position Criticized

PM2310150989 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Oct 89 p 20

[Commentary by J. Keshavarz: "Turkey: Symptoms of a Malady"]

[Text] At the beginning of this week the Turkish Government expelled from Turkey Hojjat ol-Eslam Saberi-Hamadani, the Friday prayers leader of the Iranian mosque, accusing him of condemning the execution of 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims by the Saudi Arabian regime. It is obvious that the recent Turkish Government move is not one aimed at Hojjat ol-Eslam Saberi himself but a continuation of the policy of that government, which does not miss a single chance to show its displeasure toward Islamic tendencies. There are several points that have to be made in this regard:

1. The expulsion of Saberi on the charge that he condemned the Saudi Arabian regime for killing 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims is like giving a green light to the West and to the region's reactionaries, especially Saudi Arabia.
2. According to Article 2 of the Turkish Constitution, that country is secular. But the government there has shown that it is not even secular because secular means nonreligious, not antireligious or opposed to religious beliefs. The Turkish Government has shown that it will not tolerate its people's Islamic tendencies.
3. Keeping in mind the special conditions of the war and the problems caused by economic sanctions against Iran, so far the Turkish Government has made the most gain, economically, from the Islamic Republic of Iran. For example, by acting as a middleman in steel deals with the Islamic Republic, it has now purchased and built steel mills of its own. At the start of this decade Turkey bought steel from abroad; today it is producing more than 10 million tonnes of steel per year.
4. The Turkish Government, by continuing its secular policies, is trying to cut off religious values. But it should be noted that a secular movement, in a society which is 98-percent Muslim, is doomed to fail. This polarization between the people and the anti-Islamic government—in a country where we see a growing tendency toward revolutionary Islam—has caused the Turkish Government to stand on its head instead of resting on its base, which would make it stable.
5. Unfortunately, the Turkish Government has always ignored our people's beliefs and values instead of trying to strengthen its relationship with us. It is worth mentioning at this point the reaction of the Turkish Government and president and of that country's press to the death of the imam and the presence of our people at his funeral. What has been said so far are the clear signs of a continued malady in the "sick man of Europe."

Paper Condemns French Breach of Promises

LD2210081689 Tehran IRNA in English 0759 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—The Engish daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL Sunday in its editorial called on those believing in "diplomacy and political solutions" to remind the Paris government of its forgotten promises.

French press before the last general elections in the country carried reports on returning to Iran of dlrs. one million, granted in loan to France by the toppled shah's regime as well as the release of Annis Naccache recently convicted of plotting to assassinate former Iranian prime minister Shahpur Bakhtiar in Paris in 1980.

"The French, who have grossly breached earlier promises and agreements with regard to Annis Naccache, will not hesitate to repeat it in future as has been witnessed with other issues," said the English daily.

Naccache was hospitalised following a hunger strike recently asking French officials to transfer to his cell the five other members of his group kept separately.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL recalled the case of Korush Fuladi who passed ten years of imprisonment at British jails suffering physical and mental tortures saying "the lack of honesty in Western positions and agreements is so widespread that it has even shadowed the outer facade of democratic colours and claims to human rights in the Western capitals".

The morning daily concluded, "the application of French justice" on Naccache created "serious doubts about the validity of what Paris claims".

Loan Dispute Talks To Resume

LD2410140889 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Paris, Oct. 24, IRNA- Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi arrived here Tuesday to resume talks with French officials on Tehran-Paris financial disputes.

During his five-day official visit Va'ezi is to discuss the one-billion-dollar loan given to the French Eurodif Company by the previous regime. Political issues as well as matters of mutual interest would also be discussed in the visit.

The new round of talks for settlement of financial disputes began during a visit to Iran by the director general of the French Foreign Ministry Francois Scheer on 28 September.

The French Government has so far paid back dlrs. 660 million of the loan itself (excluding the interest) to Iran.

Fishing Agreement Signed With Soviet Union

LD2410134189 Tehran IRNA in English 1322 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA—Iran will purchase fishing boats and canned fish factories from the Soviet Union, this was announced Tuesday.

The agreement was reached during a meeting of the visiting Soviet Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Vladimir Mordenov with Deputy Construction Jihad Minister and Managing Director of the Fishing Organisation Rasul Lahijaniyan.

The two sides also agreed on starting border exchanges for fishing tools at the first appropriate chance. Negotiations would continue to sign a comprehensive agreement on fishing. They also stressed expansion of fishing cooperation between the two countries in the Caspian Sea and international waters.

Mordenov arrived here last Thursday heading a ranking economic delegation to finalise talks on export of Iran's natural gas to the Soviet Union and to arrange a forthcoming visit to Tehran of Soviet Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin F. Katushev.

Energy Minister Meets Official

LD2410203889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] The Soviet deputy minister for foreign economic relations met today with the acting energy minister. In this meeting, issues related to cooperation between the two countries, especially in the field of dam building and expansion of power plants of the country, including the expansion of the Esfahan and Ahvaz power plants were discussed.

Also at this meeting, bilateral cooperation with regard to the building of the Khoda-Afarin Dam was examined and the two sides expressed interest in expediting the executive tasks, in sealing new accords, and in further expanding cooperation.

Establishment of Interreligion Center Viewed

LD1710134889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1104 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings, dear listeners. Yesterday, the third Islamic Unity Conference, held on the occasion of Unity Week under the title of "Imam Khomeyni and Islamic Unity," ended its work with a resolution. In their 19-point [as heard] resolution, the participants of the Islamic Unity Conference stressed the important and fateful principle of the Islamic world's leadership at this current sensitive juncture, and, in view of the role of the founder of the Islamic Republic, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his noble dust be sanctified, in creating unity among the Muslims of the world, asked for the publication of his eminence's instructions, guidance, and writings at an international level and in the live-languages of the world, especially in international Islamic circles.

The participants also welcomed the suggestion of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the revolution and the religious guardian of Muslims, for an interreligion house-of-coming-together as a center where Muslim jurisconsults, philosophers, and scientists can hold discussions about the views of Islamic sects. This can be considered as a big step toward the unity of the Muslim world. The raising of the issue by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic, demonstrates the attachment and sense of responsibility of the Islamic Republic's officials regarding the issues of the Islamic world. [passage omitted]

In view of the extensive conspiracies which exist for the purpose of creating divisions in the ranks of the world's Muslims, all those who are concerned about the destiny of Muslims, bearing in mind the numerous references in the holy Koran and the instructions of the prophet of God, must consider the existence of Muslim unity and solidarity as vital. The existence of a center for planning and organizing such unity is a necessity.

The need has probably been felt for y ars among the Islamic world's 'ulema and scientists. However, the distance between 'ulema and their lack of communication, and also the absence of a strong and powerful base which could support, them made the achievement of such an idea difficult. After the victory of the Islamic revolution, in view of the ideas of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds, who called on all Muslims to unite to confront the enemy and who warned them against divisions, the establishment of unity between the Muslims of the world was included in the Islamic Republic's goals.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i has stressed the pursuit of that goal with the suggestion of the establishment of an interreligion house-of-coming-together. The establishment of the Islamic Republic's system and the idea of Iran as the mother of villages [Arabic term usually referring to Mecca] of Islam has fulfilled the practical requirements for attaining that goal. On the one hand, with the programs and conferences which take place extensively with the support of the Islamic Republic, the Islamic world's thinkers establish links with one another—something which leads to a better understanding of the forces and their rapprochement and prepares the necessary groundwork for bringing their ideas together.

On the other hand, the establishment of such centers as the house-of-coming-together by a strong government can place the necessary facilities at the disposal of those who pursue the idea of Islamic unity. That support prepares in the best possible way the groundwork for realizing such ideas.

Universities Reportedly To Teach Sunni Theology

NC1810073789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani presided over a session of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution [SCCR] which was held yesterday evening and attended by Majlis Speaker Mr Karrubi and all SCCR members. During the session, the members of the council unanimously approved the incorporation of the study of Sunni theology into the curriculum of the country's universities. The Sunni 'ulema will thus be able to join university faculties to teach Sunni theology.

PTT Minister Discusses Satellite, PTT Plans

NC2110085889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Digital switch systems, which are the most advanced telephone systems in the world, are to be manufactured for the first time in the Iran telecommunications plant in Shiraz. Mr Gharazi, minister of post, telegraph and telephone [PTT], who is in Eqlid to inaugurate the 1,000-number center in that city, announced yesterday that the manufacture of digital switches is to start on 11 February 1990 at the Iran telecommunications plant in Shiraz.

He pointed out that 1,000 billion rials will be invested during the 5-year plan. The telecommunications company's investment will provide for a further 300,000 telephone numbers a year.

The PTT minister also said that, by the end of the 5-year plan, the number of villages supplied with by telephones, currently 4,000, is expected to reach 14,000.

He added that, during the next 5 years, with the installation of 10,000 fiber optics, communication is to be established between Tehran and the centers in Mashhad, Tabriz, Bandar-e 'Abbas, Khuzestan, and Shiraz. By the end of the 5-year plan, he stated, the independent national satellite of the Islamic Republic of Iran with 12 television channels and 20,000 telephone axes is to be launched.

On the question of telex lines, Mr Gharazi said: By the end of the current year, 5,000 telex lines will be added to the existing 10,000 lines. Stating that currently 70 cities are under the facsimile umbrella, he said that by the end of the 5-year plan all postal centers will be covered by this system.

Commerce Ministry Eases Import Requirements

NC2010132589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 89 pp 1, 3

[TEHRAN TIMES City Desk report]

[Text] Tehran—A major step has been taken by the Ministry of Mines and Metals for turning the wheels of the Iranian industrial units faster with the recommendation of removing formal permission by the Commerce Ministry for the imports of 28 items which are needed here in Iran.

The Ministry of Mines and Metals in its letter to the Commerce Ministry recommended that certain items are needed by the local industrial units to increase their production capacity.

In response to the recommendation of the Ministry of Mines and Metals, the Commerce Ministry accepted the proposal and issued necessary ordes to the concerned organizations, informed sources told the TEHRAN TIMES yesterday.

According to reports industrial units in Iran are currently running at a capacity of between 30 to 40 percent. The permission for the imports of these items will help boost the production of factories in Iran.

It is the second major step the government of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has taken to boost industrial production in Iran.

Last week President Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced a comprehensive plan for providing facilities for hard currency to industrial units for the import of raw materials and spare parts from abroad at a lower rate compared to that prevailing in the black market.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressing a press conference, revealed the details of the five-year plan which set a target of $9 billion in income in hard currency from exports of industrial production.

The Mines and Metals Industry Ministry's step in this present line will provide an additional facility to the country's industrialists.

The items which freely can be imported include:

1. Natural graphite 2. Natural barium carbonate 3. Mountain cotton 4. Natural sodium carbonate, potassium nitrate 5. Hot-iron pyrite 6. Other carbonate and ashes, including arec ash 7. Sodium sulphate 8. Benzene 9. Toluene 10. Other jewellery 11. Scrap iron, cast iron or steel pieces and parts 12. Small pieces of iron, steel, even smashed or sorted steel 13. Iron or steel powder 14. Iron and steel in the form of big ingots 15. Other half-finished iron or steel products in the form of coils 16. Wide iron or steel sheets 17. Bar billet sizes 6,8,10,12,14 18. H and U shaped iron 19. Flat or angle iron all sizes except size 6 and 5 20. Hot or cold iron or steel coils 21. Railway equipment 22. Copper and relevant alloys 23. Unused zinc, scrap zinc and pieces 24. Used or unused tungsten 25. Used or unused molybdenum 26. Used or unused tantalum 27. Other used or unused metals, used or unused antimonies. [no number 28 as published]

Editorial Hails Government's Anti-Inflation Moves

NC2010132789 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Anti-Inflation Moves Good Augury"]

[Text] Inflation is a situation in which there is a flush of cash in circulation, a scarcity of goods which results in the pushing up of prices, an increase in wages and welfare and service payments to compensate the latter trend and finally a lack of production meeting domestic demand for essential goods and following on that unemployment. It will not be out of point to get these basic trends firmly in place before looking at the situation

which the president's enunciated Five-Year Plan proposes to tackle. The first step has been taken in the post-revolutionary reconstruction era and this is a good augury indeed.

The step has been taken in the realization that the government needed to step in to control the haphazard directions in which the economy has hitherto moved although it has been able to stay on course despite difficulties and obstacles the nation has been through.

As for the larger measures, the government hopes through wise budgeting and currency measures to direct the flow of available capital in the country towards productive enterprise and those enterprises that can bring income and generate employment in the country. It is only by increasing employment and concurrently through increased production that the benefits of grater wealth can flow down to the vast majority of the less affluent in the country. In order to ensure this the government will need all the expertise and advice of sound economic theoreticians.

To flush the market with a free and unlimited import of foreign goods alone although it may help in the short run to bring down prices of luxury goods will not be a long-term solution. It will not discourage consumerism. The aim should be to concentrate and expand instead to the maximum extent possible domestic industry which will in the end lead to self-sufficiency in what can very well satisfy domestic needs.

What the Five-Year Plan we believe aims to do for a start is to encourage these trends, invite capital which is now floating freely in private hands to channel it into investments and thus break the vicious circle of inflation by a corresponding relaxation of too rigid import and export controls.

Taxation of businesses and industries will no doubt be taken in hand by the government when the economy gets to moving at a faster pace, thus ensuring again that ours is not a system in which the wealthy get wealthier and that any wealth in excess is siphoned off to the government coffers and used in the most beneficial of ways in the interests of the people as a whole.

While the right mixture of government and private sector participation willbe the best thing that can be hoped for,the government should be prepared to go as far as it can to work into the system whatever is found to be of advantage through the new initiatives which it will implement in practice over the next few months and years. And bureaucratic imbecility should under no circumstances by allowed to foul the entire works up.

As Ayatollah Yazdi the head of Iran's Judiciary said at this week's Friday prayers in Tehran, where he acted as leader, one should remember that there can be no room for corruption or selfishness even as the new changes proposed by the government in the economy are implemented. We cannot forget that we are an Islamic nation and hence that wealth and the benefits enjoyed by a nation are there not for the few but to be shared equitably by all—an ideal that we as an Islamic nation can make a reality and should never forget.

Narcotics Dealers Arrested; Drugs Seized

LD2110125589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] The alacrity and efforts of Islamic Revolutionary Committee Guards in the provinces of Fars, Hamadan, Sistan va Baluchestan, and Khorasan led to the discovery of over 105 kgs of various narcotics in the past 48 hours. According to a Central News Unit report, 60 of those arrested were charged with the procurement and distribution of narcotics, and 149 were charged with addiction. All those arrested were handed over to the judicial authorities, along with the seized narcotics.

2 Drug-Smuggling Rings Smashed in Khorasan

LD2410192189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] The guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee of Khorasan, in charge of combatting narcotics, during the current week smashed two networks producing and distributing narcotics in that province and discovered and confiscated 243 kgs of opium. According to an IRNA report, in this connection 30 professional smugglers who have a record of such operations were arrested, and 11.7 million rials in cash and a quantity of gold and jewellery were seized. Also five vehicles belonging to the smugglers were seized, and in searching the vehicles 5 million rials of cash, which had been skillfully hidden, was discovered.

In addition, the guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee in Torbat-e Jam, Sabzevar and Mashhad railway station, as well as the officers from gendarmerie post in Maleki, a district of Torbat-e Jam, yesterday arrested 12 smugglers and seized 52 kgs of opium from them. From these smugglers, 1 million rials in cash and five checks totaling 4 million rials were seized, and a Khavar [make of truck] truck belonging to them was also confiscated.

Pakistan

No-Confidence Motion Against Bhutto Submitted

BK2310153989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] The opposition in the National Assembly has given notice of a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto. The spokesman of the Combined Opposition Group, Mian Zahid Sarfaraz, addressing a news conference in Islamabad, said that the notice of the no-confidence motion was given to the secretary of the National Assembly this afternoon; it has been signed by 86 members of the opposition. He said that the notice does not include the signatures of the members of Muhajir Qaumi Movement.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1532 GMT adds: "The opposition leaders said the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) now had the support of 129 members of the 237-member house, giving them enough votes to oust Ms. Bhutto. The conservative IJI told a hastily assembled press conference that they had also gained the support of members of the independent Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM)."]

Reacting to the notice of a no-confidence motion, the minister for parliamentary affairs, Khwaja Ahmad Tariq Rahim, said that the opposition had been planning the no-confidence motion since September this year and now they had given the notice of this motion. He said the Pakistan People's Party is fully confident that the motion will be defeated. He added that the members of the assembly have full confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto, and with God's grace the motion will be defeated by a big majority.

He said the Islamic Democratic Alliance government in Punjab has kept elected members under detention with the help of the provincial administration, which is an illegal and unconstitutional step and against political ethics.

Assembly To Debate Motion 26 Oct

BK2410132589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] The speaker of the National Assembly, Malik Mairaj Khalid, has said the admissibility of the motion seeking to move the no-confidence resolution against the prime minister will come up before the National Assembly on Thursday [26 October]. He told APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] in Islamabad today that the resolution shall not be voted upon before the expiry of 3 days or later than 7 days from the day on which the resolution is moved in the house. He said he would strictly move in accordance with the Constitution and rules to dispose of the resolution.

MQM Breaks With People's Party

BK2410130189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] In Pakistan, 86 opposition members of the Combined Opposition Party have moved a no-confidence motion against the 10-month-old Benazir Bhutto government. A no-trust motion is expected to come up for voting on Sunday, the 29th [of October].

In a simultaneous and sudden development, the Muhajir Qaumi Movement, MQM, has announced the annulment of its pact with the ruling Pakistan People's Party. The MQM, which has 14 members in the National Assembly, also announced its support to the no-confidence motion.

In the 237-strong National Assembly, the Pakistan People's Party and its ally, MQM, have a combined strength of 131; while the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad]-led opposition has a strength of 106.

Bihari Issue Reason for Split

BK2410132889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1301 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Karachi, Oct 24 (AFP)—Altaf Hussain, leader of the opposition Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), said Monday [23 October] his party's break with the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) came a result of the PPP's failure to repatriate stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh.

Commenting on the MQM's decision to support a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in the National Assembly, Mr. Hussain said his party had ended its accord with the PPP over the issue of the Biharis.

Biharis are stranded Pakistanis who have been living in refugee camps in Dhaka since the former East Pakistan became the independent state of Bangladesh in December 1971 after a war of secession.

At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was quoted by the BBC as saying that repatriation of the Biharis was not a priority for her government.

Syed Qaim Ali Shah, PPP chief minister of the southern province of Sind, said in a statement Monday that the opposition's no-confidence move against Mrs. Bhutto was a challenge to the ruling party, but added "we are confident of meeting this challenge successfully."

"The no-confidence motion may appear to be against the PPP, but in fact it is an attempt on the part of the anti-democratic forces to subvert the democratic process and institutions," his statement added.

Mr. Shah said the reasons given by MQM leaders for breaking their coalition with the PPP were "incorrect and misconceived."

The PPP had been making genuine efforts to implement its accord with the MQM, he said, and hoped the MQM would reconsider its decision to quit the coalition and to support the no-confidence motion.

Meanwhile, troops were patrolling the curfew-bound parts of Karachi's western district Tuesday after three people, including two policemen, were killed Monday by unidentified gunmen riding motorcycles.

The Malir and Model Colony areas of west Karachi were put under curfew to prevent an escalation of ethnic violence between Muhajirs and the local Sindis, police said.

MQM, IJI Announce 'Agreement'

BK2410153589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [IJI] and Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] have signed an agreement. An announcement to this effect was made at a news conference in Karachi today. The news conference was jointly addressed by IJI leader Nawaz Sharif and MQM leader Azim Tariq. They said the agreement will be observed by both sides.

Bhutto Assails No-Confidence Motion

BK2410143089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto said National Assembly members believe in democracy and will not support an undemocratic alliance and negative politics. They will never allow anyone to destroy the current democratic system. Speaking to newsmen at Parliament House in Islamabad today, she said her government is in no danger from the opposition parties' no-confidence motion; this motion will prove ineffective. She said her government is strong enough to face any challenge. She noted that the opposition, which is making tall claims about its strength, will be exposed when the no-confidence motion is voted upon.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said the opposition is trying to bring pressure on the members and is trying to purchase them. This sort of effort will not succeed. The prime minister expressed the hope that the National Assembly members will vote in accordance with their conscience to stabilize the democratic process in the country.

On the break up of the Pakistan People's Party-Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] alliance, she said the MQM's step is based on bad intentions and is part of a conspiracy to destroy democracy

Bhutto Condemns 'Illegal' Tactics

BK2510082589 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has condemned the questionable method being used by the opposition in an attempt to win a majority and said her government will, insha'allah [God willing], emerge with resounding victory in the move for vote of no confidence. She was talking to newsmen after performing the groundbreaking ceremony of the new building of Supreme Court next to the Parliament House in Islamabad this morning.

She said the opposition was resorting to illegal and unconstitutional tactics to win over the loyalties of MNA's [members of National Assembly]. She said our members are not saleable commodities and everyone will see that they will stand by their party and government.

About the four MNA's from FATA [Federally Administered Tribal Areas], who are in Lahore, she was confident that they will not be swayed and will keep up their honorable tribal tradition when the time comes for voting.

Replying to a question about the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] breaking its alliance with the PPP [Pakistan People's Party], Ms Benazir Bhutto said the government is in majority without them and will defeat the no confidence move. However, she said the government has kept its door open for negotiations with MQM, adding that no one should misunderstand this.

Member Supports Prime Minister

BK2510050489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] A member of the National Assembly from Jhang called on Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad yesterday evening. He expressed full confidence in Ms Benazir Bhutto's leadership. The National Assembly member criticized the Islamic Democratic Alliance's activities and described them as undemocratic.

The special assistant to the prime minister, Mr Gulzar Ahmad Khan, has said that democratic-minded National Assembly members will support the Pakistan People's Party government. In a statement issued in Lahore, he emphasized that politicians should collectively work to strengthen democracy in the country.

The Pakistan People Party's executive committee-Punjab held a meeting in Lahore yesterday which was presided over by the committee's president, Mr Fakre Zaman. The meeting assessed the political situation in the country.

Opposition Leader Comments

BK2410124489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1221 GMT 24 Oct 89

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 24 (AFP)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has been deserted by her chief allies, and a show-down on a no-confidence motion by the opposition is expected this week, the parliamentary opposition leader said Tuesday [24 October].

The 36-year-old Ms. Bhutto, the country's first woman prime minister, faces a severe challenge to her 10-month-old government following Monday's announcement by the combined opposition parties (COP) in Parliament that they planned to serve a formal notice to move a no-confidence motion.

But the prime minister Tuesday dismissed the move as a "futile exercise."

"There was no danger to our government," she told reporters in the Parliament House, adding that the government was "strong enough to face any challenge"

"The no-confidence move will prove a futile exercise," she said.

The attempted parliamentary coup was staged only a day after Ms. Bhutto's return from the Commonwealth summit in Kuala Lumpur.

A vote Wednesday in the lower house will decide whether the no-confidence motion receives a parliamentary hearing.

Parliamentary opposition leader Ghulam Hyder Wyne told a press conference Tuesday that the no-confidence move was an "expression of dissension" against the prime minister's policies on national issues. "We are using legal and democratic means after exhausting all avenues" to resolve the issues, he said.

Official government sources said Ms. Bhutto herself chaired a late night meeting Monday of cabinet ministers and National Assembly members to devise a strategy to foil the plan.

Informed sources in the capital said some MP's [members of Parliament] of Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) have been asked to cancel trips abroad, and that the prime minister's mother and senior minister Begum Nusrat Bhutto has cut short a visit to Europe and the United States. But there was no sign of panic in her camp, and top leaders and government ministers appeared confident that the party was "fully united" to defeat the motion.

Reading what he termed a "charge sheet" against the prime minister, Mr. Wyne held Ms. Bhutto responsible for confrontation with the provincial governments in Baluchistan and Punjab, where 70 percent of the country's 110 million people live. He also accused her of failing to end differences between top officials in the offices of the president and prime minister, and that "disrespect" was being shown to the judiciary.

Ms. Bhutto recruited "inexperienced, defeated and sacked officials" as advisors and launched a "calculated character assasination campaign" against the opposition dominated senate, he charged.

Mr. Wyne was guarded on his outcome for the no-confidence motion, which arose after the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance gained the support of the independent Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM). The MQM had been sharing power with the PPP in Ms. Bhutto's home province of Sind, in the south, under the so-called "Karachi accord" of December 1988.

Referring to the MQM-PPP split and decision of other MPs from tribal areas bordering Afghanistan and the pro-Soviet Awami National Party to join the opposition, Mr. Wyne said Ms. Bhutto's "real allies have disassociated with the PPP."

The PPP needs 119 votes in the 237-member lower house to keep Ms. Bhutto in power, although opposition leaders Monday said they had the support of 129 MPs. Ms. Bhutto won 146 votes when she sought a confidence vote in the assembly in December.

But a close associate of Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, the core leader of the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance, said more than 20 PPP members were expected to support the motion against their leader. He said the combined opposition parties already had the support of 91 members and 14 MQM deputies as well as five tribal deputies.

More on Reaction to Motion

BK2410161589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Prime minister's officer on special duty for cabinet affairs, Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal, has said the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] has no anxiety over the no-confidence motion. In the past, the PPP has proved its majority in the assembly; the present step will also evoke the same result. Speaking at a news conference in Islamabad, he said the People's Party came to power by the struggle for democracy and by the votes of confidence of the people, and it will face any challenge against it through political and democratic means.

The secretary general of the PPP, Sheikh Rafiq Ahmad, has said he is confident that the government will come out of the no-confidence motion with an overwhelming majority. Speaking at a news conference in Lahore, he said the government considers it [the opposition's no-confidence motion] a part of the democratic process, and the opposition has utilized its right according to democratic traditions.

In reply to a question, he said drug traffickers are launching a drive against the prime minister, and the sums acquired from illegal sources are being used for conspiracy against the elected government.

Meeting Discusses Situation in Indian Kashmir

BK2110153289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] A joint session of Azad [Pakistan-held] Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly and Azad Jammu and Kashmir council was held in Muzefferabad today, which discussed the situation in [Indian] occupied Kashmir. Addressing the session, Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayum Khan appealed to all people of the region to rise above party affiliations and struggle for the objective of the Kashmiri people.

Punjab Chief Calls Indian Dam 'Threat to Economy'

BK2010165089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Addressing a news conference in Lahore today, the Punjab chief minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif, said his government would take up the construction of Wular Barrage by India on the River Jhelum at all forums,

including the meeting of the Council of Common Interest and Parliament. He said the construction of the barrage by India was a threat to Pakistan's economy.

Punjab Chief's Remarks Criticized

BK2210154489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Farooq Ahmad Leghari, the federal minister for water and power, has said that the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] government has never compromised on the question of the construction of the Wular Barrage by India. Talking to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Multan today, he said since the assumption of power by the PPP, the construction of this barrage has remained suspended. The existing built-up part of the barrage was constructed before the PPP came into power.

The federal minister said Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif's statement on Wular Barrage is part of his propaganda campaign.

Bhutto Meets Afghan Interim Government Cabinet

BK2510043489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The president of the Afghanistan interim government, Professor Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, along with members of his government called on Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad last evening. Matters relating to the setting up of a broad-based political government in Afghanistan and the removal of Najibullah as a prerequisite for any settlement of Afghanistan problem were discussed.